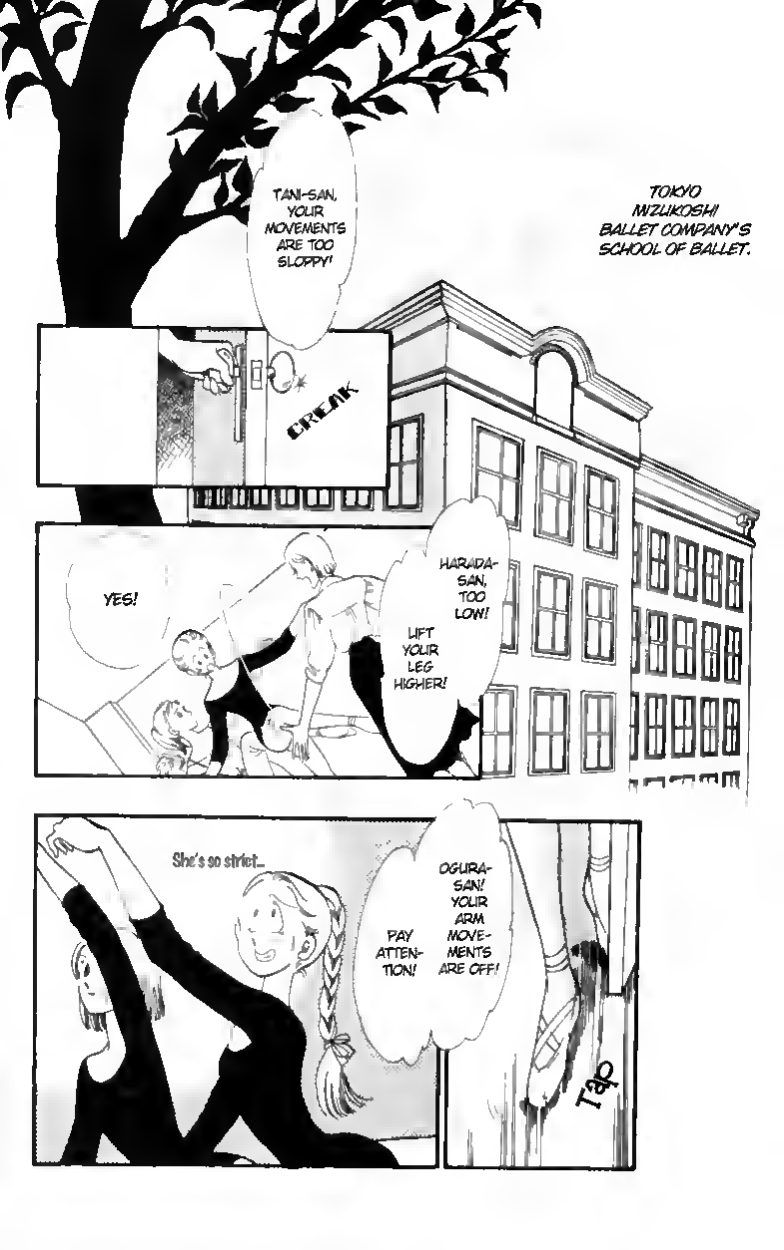
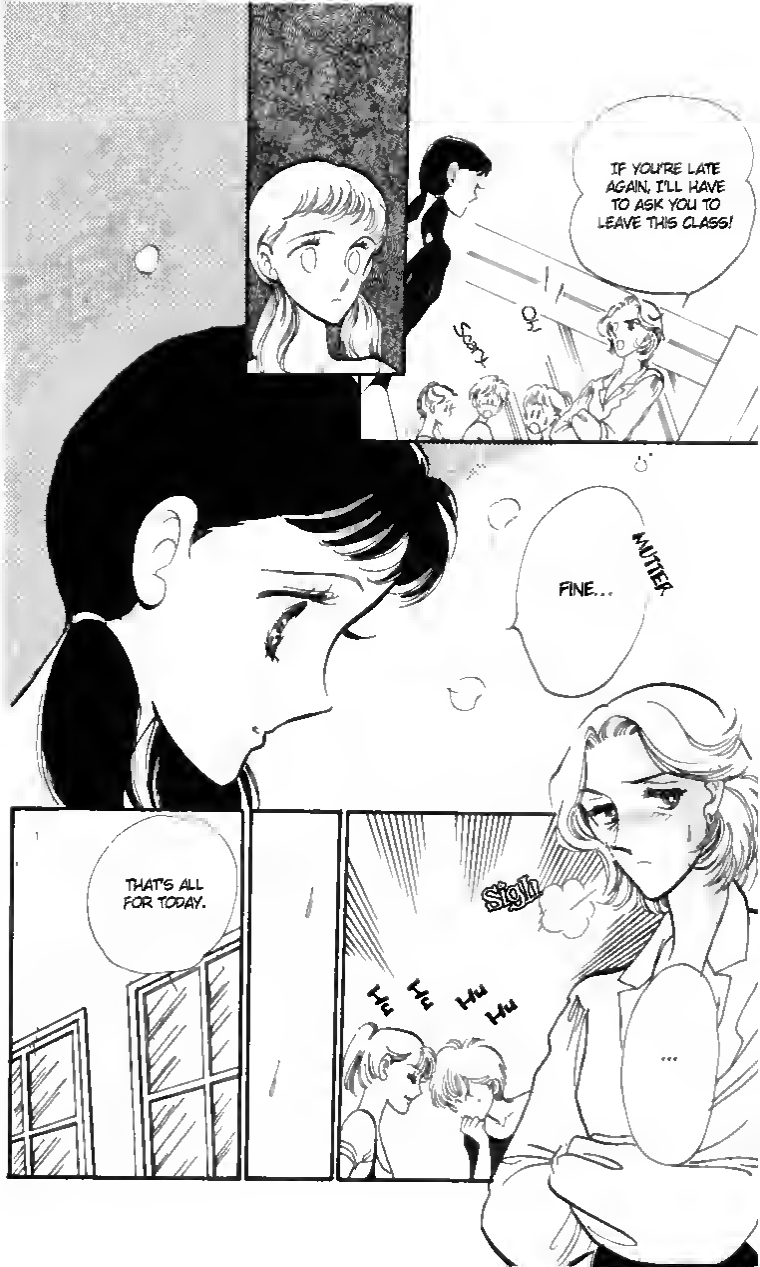
Story by Mizue Sawa

Art by Chiho Saito

OPERA BALLET'S PRINCIPAL DANCERS ARE CALLED "ETOILE".
THE NAME MEANS "STAR" IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.
UP TO NOW, YOUNG GIRLS STILL CONTINUE TO EMBRACE THE HEAVENS IN THEIR DESIRE TO REACH FOR THE STARS.


TOKYO MIZUKOSHI BALLET COMPANY'S SCHOOL OF BALLET.
TANI-SAN, YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE TOO SLOPPY!
CREAK
YES!
HARADA-SAN, TOO LOW! LIFT YOUR LEG HIGHER!
She's so strict...
OGURA-SAN! YOUR ARM MOVE-MENTS ARE OFF! PAY ATTEN-TION!
TAP

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
AND MORIKAWA KEIMI!
CLOSE
YOU'VE ARRIVED LATE TOO MANY TIMES ALREADY!


IF YOU'RE LATE AGAIN, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE THIS CLASS!
OH
SORRY
MUTTER
FINE...
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
Sigh
Hu Hu Hu Hu
...

AH! FINALLY OVER!
STRETCH
STARE
AH
HA HA HA
SLAM
GOODBYE, SENSEI!
AH! I NEVER GET TIRED OF LISTENING TO KEIMI AND KUKO-SENSEI'S VERBAL TUSSLES!
SO FUNNY
WHEN A TEACHER AS STRICT AS THAT ONE GOES AGAINST A PERSON WHO'S AS HAPPY-GO-LUCKY AS KEIMI, IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
YOU TWO CAN SOUND OFF ONE ANOTHER.
SOUNDS INTERESTING!
I'LL GO AHEAD NOW!
DUMBFOUNDED

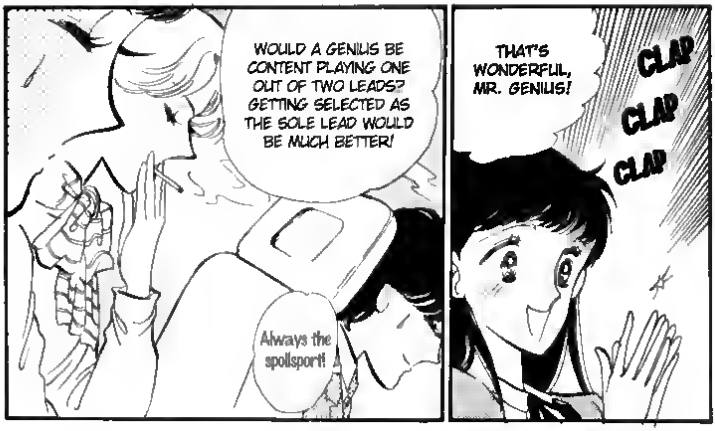
I DON'T UNDERSTAND KEIMI. DOES SHE HAVE NO AMBITION WHATSOEVER?
HER SISTER'S A PARAGON. THAT'S WHY MOST PEOPLE NOTICE EVEN THE SMALLEST SLIP-UPS ON HER PART.
HER SISTER, CHIHARU, GRADUATED AT THE TOP OF HER CLASS, AND NOW SHE'S A NEW MEMBER OF THE MIZUKOSHI BALLET COMPANY.
BUT KEIMI'S NOT A TALENTLESS HACK EITHER!
SHE WAS PART OF THE SELECTION LAST YEAR, AND IF HER HEALTH HADN'T CAUSED HER TO GIVE UP HER PLACE, MAYBE ..
YOU RATE HER TOO HIGHLY.
SHE HASN'T EVEN ATTENDED ANY OF THE SPECIAL PRACTICE SESSIONS CHARLENE SAWYER SENSEI HAS ARRANGED!
TRUE, KEIMI'S MUCH TOO UNFOCUSED!

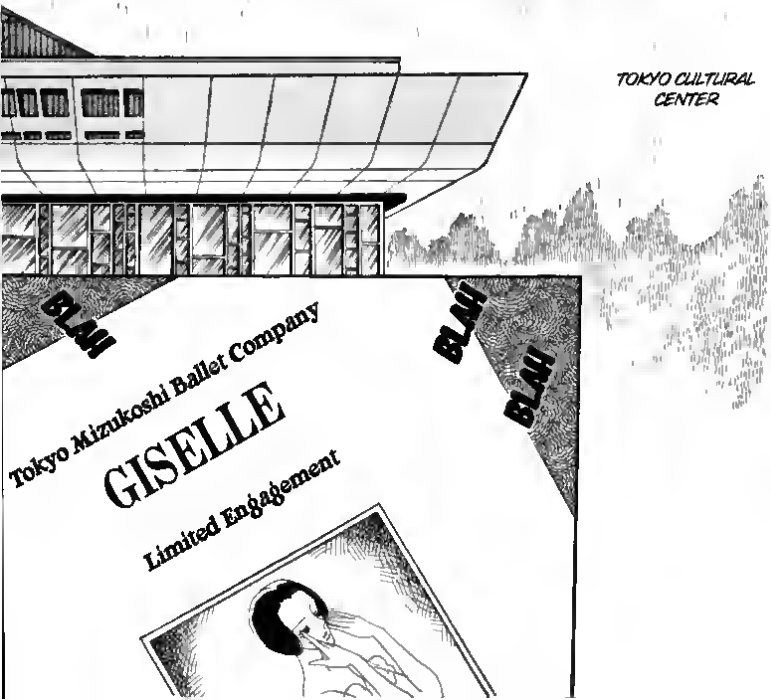
KEIKO!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
AND WITH SUCH AN ELEGANT POSE TOO.

AH, YOU'RE NOT ONSTAGE TODAY?
NO ROLES FOR ME TODAY.
GOING HOME?
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!
GREAT...
Smile
it's Ikuko-sensei!
I'LL JUST TAKE THE SUBWAY HOME...
AH... NO NEED...
YOUR ATTITUDE IS TOO TRANSPARENT!
AH, SORRY!
TATSURU! EYES IN FRONT!
YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!
Hu Hu Hu

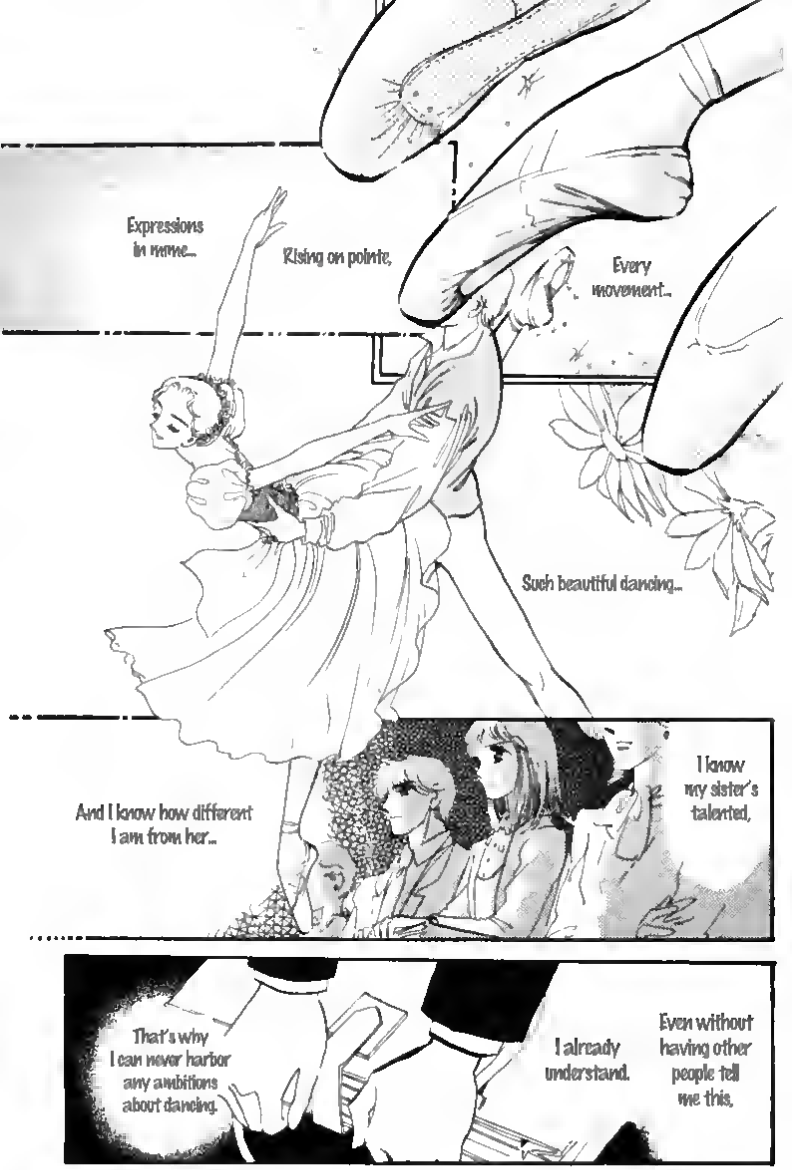
I STILL HAVE AN EXTRA FRONT ROW TICKET, ORCHESTRA CENTER.
DO JOIN US.
KEIMI, YOU'VE NEVER WATCHED YOUR SISTER PERFORM, HAVE YOU?
I'M GOING TO THE TOKYO CULTURAL CENTER WITH YOU
MOM, AFTER WE TAKE KEIMI HOME,
LET'S GO THEN!
Chuckle
THANK YOU...
I really don't want to go...
YOU'D BE ABLE TO DANCE JUST LIKE YOUR SISTER CHIHARU!
KEIMI, IF YOU'D ONLY PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT...

PROBABLY JUST NEED SOME SORT OF INSPIRATION.
YOU...
SOMETHING LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY...
OR ANY KIND OF ONSTAGE APPEARANCE...
These furnes are too heavy...
I'm gonna run out of breath soon!
Cough
Cough
HOW ABOUT A GENIUS LIKE ME, LESS THAN A YEAR WITH THE COMPANY AND ALREADY DANCING SOLOS!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE A PARTNER WHO'S GOOD ENOUGH YET!


WOULD A GENIUS BE CONTENT PLAYING ONE OUT OF TWO LEADS? GETTING SELECTED AS THE SOLE LEAD WOULD BE MUCH BETTER!
Always the spoilsport!
THAT'S WONDERFUL, MR. GENIUS!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


TOKYO CULTURAL CENTER
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
Tokyo Mizukoshi Ballet Company
GISELLE
Limited Engagement

Big sister...


Expressions in nerve...
Rising on pointe,
Every movement...
Such beautiful dancing...
And I know how different I am from her...
I know my sister's talented,
That's why I can never harbor any ambitions about dancing.
I already understand.
Even without having other people tell me this,

Other people will never understand...
KEIKI.. YOUR BAG..
EH?

AH!
KYAAA! TATSU-KUN!
ばらばらばら
*SFX: SCATTER

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE CRYING, OR ARE YOU LAUGHING?
IT'S NOT JUST THAT, YOU'RE SIMPLY TOO MUCH OF AN ORIGINAL...
Hu
Hu
IKUKO-SENSEI WAS SO ANNOYED, SHE WENT AND DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE .
I FEEL LIKE LAUGHING WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT IT..
Ha
Ha
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THE CLASP WAS BROKEN!

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU!
WINK
NO THANKS.
I'M GOING BACKSTAGE, DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?
WAIT FOR ME OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE, I'LL BRING YOU HOME LATER.
I LIKE YOU WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS!
Tatsu-kun...
Are you trying to cheer me up?

BUMP
I'm not that bummed over it...
Turn
Waah!
CLATTER
Why am I so clumsy today!
S-SORRY..
YOUR MAKE-UP CASE...

Eh?
Could he be_
_gay?

Ah! He saw that?
WHAT A WALKING DISASTER!
CAUSING AN UPROAR DURING THE SHOW TOO.
SORRY. LET ME...
EH?
NO NEED!
DON'T TOUCH MY THINGS!
FLINCH

AH... KUROKI-SAN!
HOW WAS MY DANCING YESTERDAY?
YOU'RE IMPROVING.
IS IT YOUR TURN AGAIN TOMORROW?
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK THEN!
YES!
I WILL!

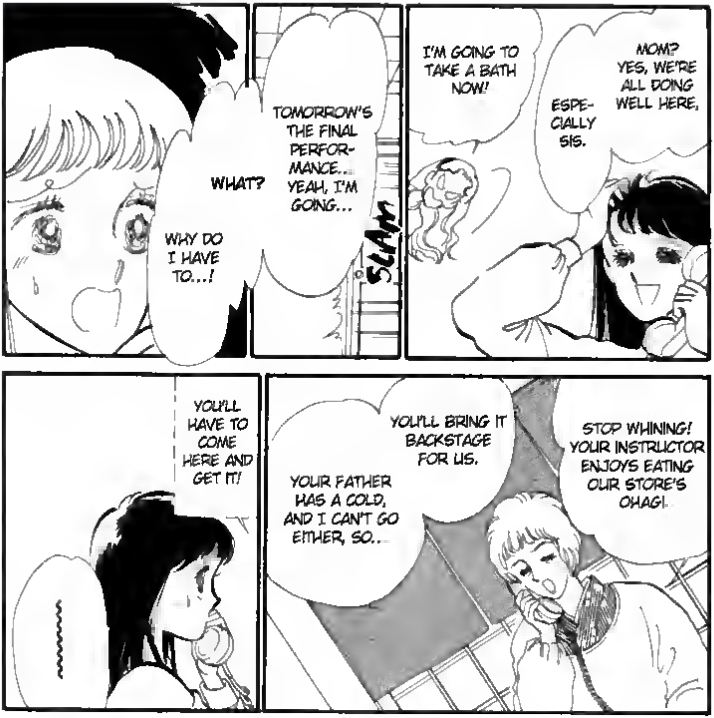
IS HE SUCH A BIG SHOT?
I'M SO HAPPY! KUROKI-SAN PRAISED ME!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO KUROKI-SAN IS?
KUROKI REO.
HE'S THE MAKE-UP ARTIST WHO'S CALLED THE MAGICIAN OF COLOR!
WHO DID YOU THINK HE WAS THEN?
*SFX: WOBBLE
SOME GAY GUY...

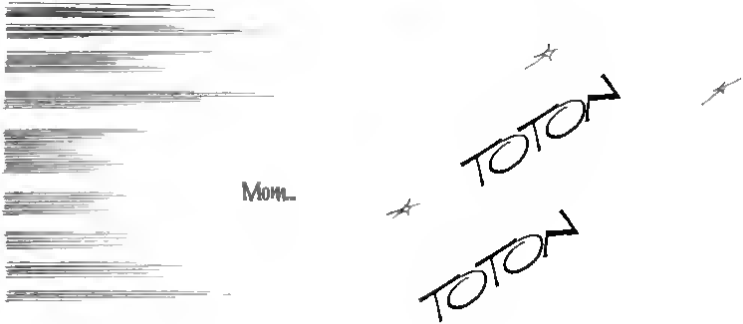
KUROKI-SAN USED TO BE A MEMBER OF SOUBIDOU COSMETICS' BEAUTY PRODUCTS DIVISION. MY MOM INVITED HIM TO JOIN US HERE IN THE COMPANY.
WE USED TO DO OUR OWN MAKE-UP BEFORE KUROKI-SAN ARRIVED. SO ASIDE FROM DOING CONCEPTUAL WORK, HE ALSO HELPS US PUT ON OUR STAGE MAKE-UP.
EVERYBODY SAYS THAT KUROKI-SAN'S MAKE-UP LITERALLY TRANSFORMS THE STAGE.
YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSED AT ALL?
WELL, HERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S SURE TO SURPRISE YOU.
I HEARD THAT KUROKI-SAN IS KAIDA FUMIHIKO'S ILLEGITIMATE CHILD!

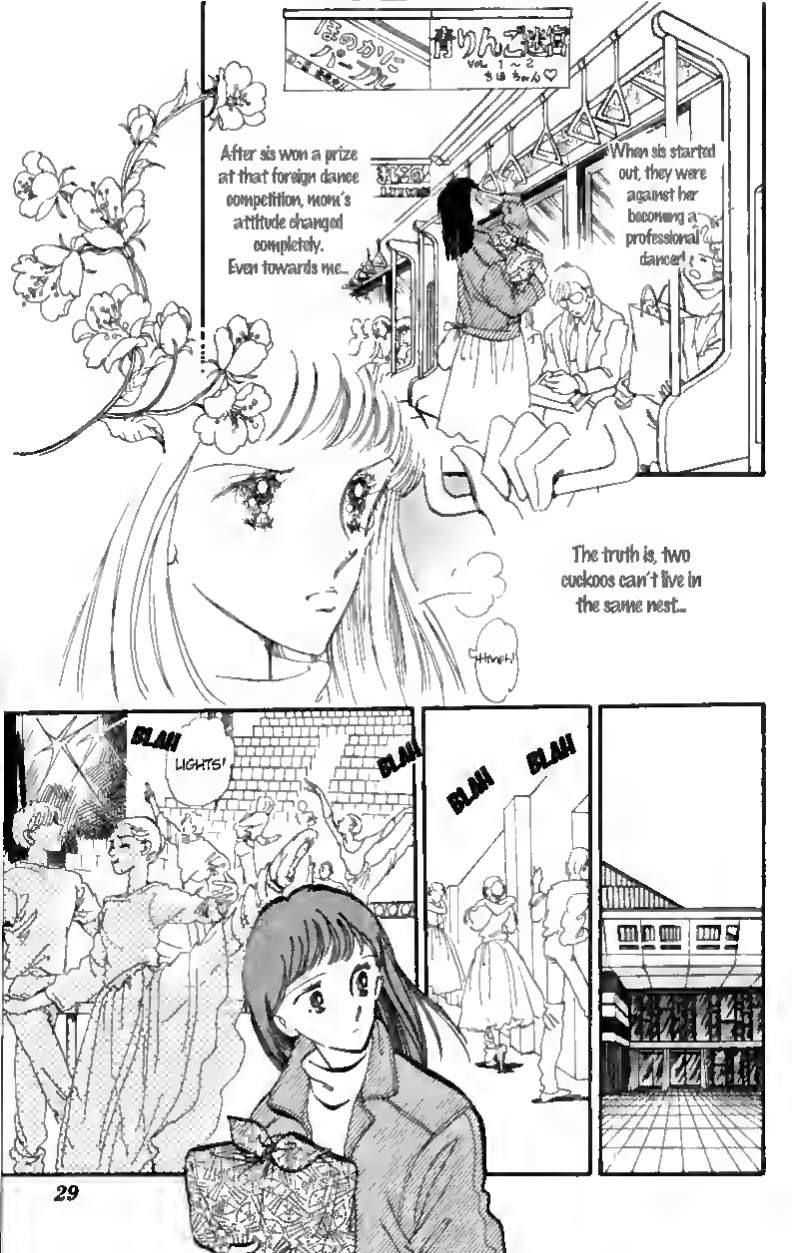
The famous Kaida Fumihiko?
YUP!
KAIDA? WEST GERMANY'S HAMBURG BALLET COMPANY'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR?
What's that to me?
I still think he's creepy!
WHAT? YOU DISTURBED THE AUDIENCE WITH YOUR LOUD VOICE, AND THEN YOU BOWLED OVER KUROKI-SAN?
AND STILL ACTING AS THOUGH NOTHING HAPPENED!
OH, YOU...
UMM...

KEIKO!
SLAM
SO I DON'T NEED TO TOAD EAT THAT ANNOYING PERSON...
ANYWAY... I'M NOT LIKE YOU, SIS. I'M NOT PART OF THE COMPANY.
CAN'T YOU BE SERIOUS WITH YOUR PREPARATIONS FOR JOINING THE COMPANY IN THE FUTURE?
OUR FAMILY'S OHAGI* BUSINESS ISN'T DOING WELL ENOUGH FOR US TO JUST PLAY AT BEING BALLERINAS!
WE'RE ALREADY LIVING AWAY FROM HOME, SO WE'RE SHELLING OUT MONEY FOR OUR RENT!
Slurp
RINGGG
AH! I'LL ANSWER THE PHONE!
Keiko!

*SWEET RICE BALLS


WHAT?
WHY DO I HAVE TO...!
TOMORROW'S THE FINAL PERFORMANCE... YEAH, I'M GOING...
SLAM
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH NOW!
ESPECIALLY SIS.
MOM? YES, WE'RE ALL DOING WELL HERE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME HERE AND GET IT!
.....
YOUR FATHER HAS A COLD, AND I CAN'T GO EITHER, SO..
YOU'LL BRING IT BACKSTAGE FOR US.
STOP WHINING! YOUR INSTRUCTOR ENJOYS EATING OUR STORE'S OHAGI.


Mom..
TOTON
TOTON


After sis won a prize at that foreign dance competition, mom's attitude changed completely. Even towards me...
When sis started out, they were against her becoming a professional dancer!
The truth is, two cuckoos can't live in the same nest...
Hmph!
BLAH
LIGHTS!
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna

Volume 1 Chapter 1

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The Barcardle Team

APPLY
WHAT IS?
IT'S INTERESTING
KUROKI-SAN, EVERY TIME YOU FINISH A MAKEUP JOB,
YOU ALWAYS TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES AND NARROW YOUR EYES JUST SO
IT'S EASIER TO IMAGINE
THE EFFECT ONSTAGE WITH BLURRED VISION

DON'T TALK!
WHEN SHE. .
YOUR SISTER, CHIHARU? I DON'T SEEM TO REMEMBER..
OH YEAH, ABOUT YESTERDAY
DID MY SISTER BOTHER YOU?
MADEMOISELLE CHIHARU, PLEASE SAY THAT YOU'LL GO OUT WITH ME AFTER YOU'RE DONE?
THANK YOU, BUT PLEASE INVITE SOMEONE ELSE,
DEAR PRINCE!
OH, WELL!
HEY, YOU'RE BLOCKING THE LIGHT!

ARE YOU OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW.
MY LEG WASN'T FEELING RIGHT WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING...
SO I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET IT CHECKED...
SASAKI, HOW COME YOU'RE SO LATE?
GOOD MORNING.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT!
Commotion
YOU DON'T KNOW?
BUT THE UNDER-STUDY...
BAD NEWS! KURIMOTO'S THE UNDERSTUDY, BUT SHE'S IN BED WITH A HANGOVER!
A SPRAIN? WHERE'S HER UNDER-STUDY?
WE'RE TRYING TO CONTACT HER RIGHT NOW!
REGLES
SOMEBODY GO CALL SENSE!!
THE UNDER-STUDY DIDN'T COME?

POP UP
BLAH!
BLAH!
BLAH!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHE'S OUT OF THE COMPANY THEN!
WHAT...
TATSU-KUN!
BLAH!
BLAH!
KEIMI?
KEIMI!
BLAH!
BLAH!
EH? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHY'D YOU COME HERE?
MOM MADE ME COME...

MORIKAWA KEIMI!
OKAY, BUT WE'RE KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW...
TADAN
I BROUGHT THE OHAGI!
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THE ROLE FROM THE FIRST ACT OF GISELLE THAT WE DID LAST MONTH?
UMM, YEAH..
Eh?
What?

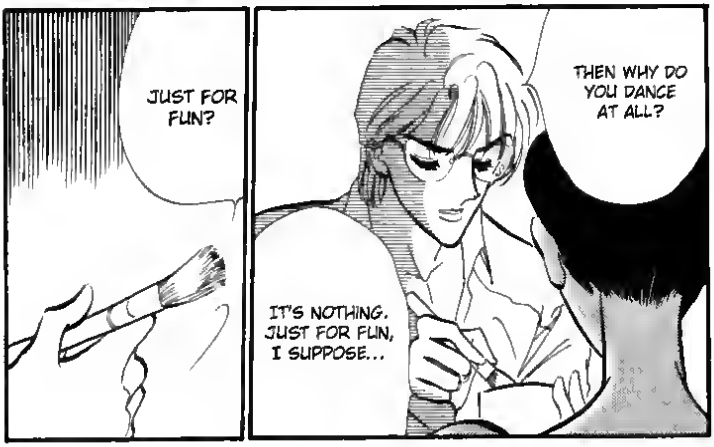
GOOD! COSTUME GROUP!
HELP ALTER A VILLAGE MAIDEN COSTUME FOR MORIKAWA!
SHOCK
!
BUT SENSEI! SHE HASN'T HAD ANY PRACTICE!
IF WE DO THAT, AKITA-SENSEI WILL...

THAT'S SENSEI FOR YOU! ALWAYS TAKES THINGS IN STRIDE.
COSTUME GROUP! STOP DAWDLING AND GET TO WORK!
PHEW
WE'LL JUST EXPLAIN IT TO THE PRODUCERS AFTERWARDS!
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
Yes!
YEAH, KEIMI, DANCE YOUR HEART OUT!
TATSU-KUN!
KEIMI, BREAK A LEG, OKAY?
YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU IDIOT! THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!
BUT I NEVER WANTED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL DANCER..

...
DO YOU GET MY MEANING?
AT THE RATE YOU'RE GOING, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE...
MORIKAWA-SAN, THIS IS AN ORDER FROM YOUR SENSEI.
VERY GOOD!
I UNDER-STAND...
I'LL DANCE.
Fine! It's just this one time!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU! ♡
GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT, KEIMI! ♡

Just this one time...
What's with the poker face?
AH, PLEASE GO AHEAD...
Right. He's a make-up artist...
TILT

YES!
What a prying question!
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL DANCER?

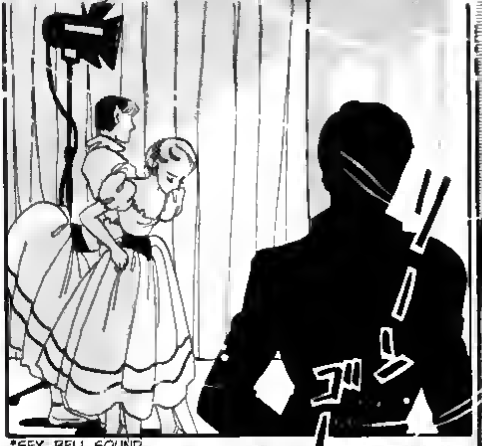

JUST FOR FUN?
IT'S NOTHING. JUST FOR FUN, I SUPPOSE...
THEN WHY DO YOU DANCE AT ALL?

?
PONS
TOSS
I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR A PERSON LIKE YOU.
HUH?
I EARN MY SALARY FROM DOING MAKEUP FOR PROFE-SSIONAL DANCERS.
I'VE NEVER DONE ANY WORK FOR A CASUAL AMATEUR DANCER!

*SFX: CROWD NOISE

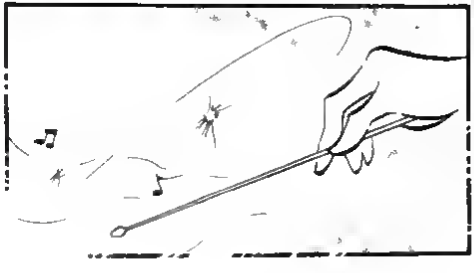
I'VE NEVER DONE ANY WORK FOR A CASUAL AMATEUR DANCER!
Hmph! The choice to become a professional dancer or not?
It's my own decision to make!
*SFX: CHATTER

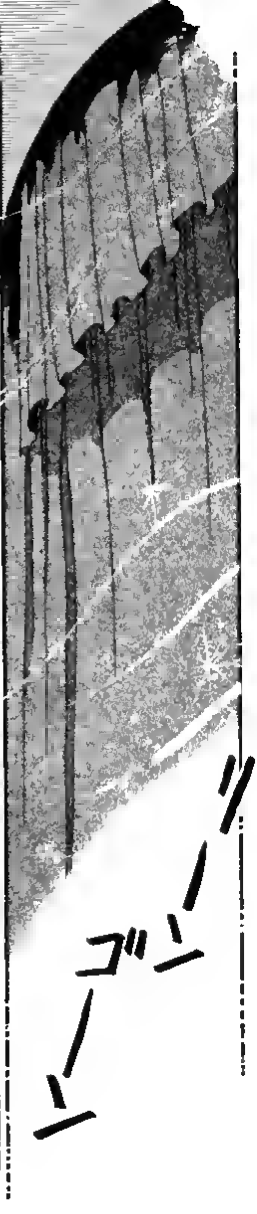
I'll do it myself!
WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT KEIMI'S MAKE-UP?
KUROKI-SAN REFUSES TO COME BACK!
SENSEI...
LET ME.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU WANT TO GO THIS PATH OR NOT, FOR TODAY, YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL DANCER!
KUROKI-SAN IS A GENIUS WITH MAKE-UP!
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NOT EVERYONE CAN BECOME!



*SFX: BELL SOUND

*SFX: MUTTER





No turning back now...
Clench
I'll just dance!
DON'T MAKE ME FEEL THE SAME WAY!
OH... I'M FEELING ESPECIALLY NERVOUS TODAY...
Four small steps to go....
Three...
Two...

It's so bright!

The audience pit is covered in darkness, so we can't see anything...
This way I'll be less afraid to dance!
THE ADVANCED CLASS IS EXPECTED TO BE AT THAT LEVEL!
HER DANCING'S NOT BAD AT ALL ..
ANXIOUS

That's it, Keimi! You're doing it!
Pas de bourree.
Jete.
I can see the audience now.
My eyes are adjusting to the darkness.
When I jump...
Was that jete battu I just did as high as everyone elss's?
How about my balance?

Also...
He's watching?
Ah, that's right...
My face isn't made up...
...like everyone else's!

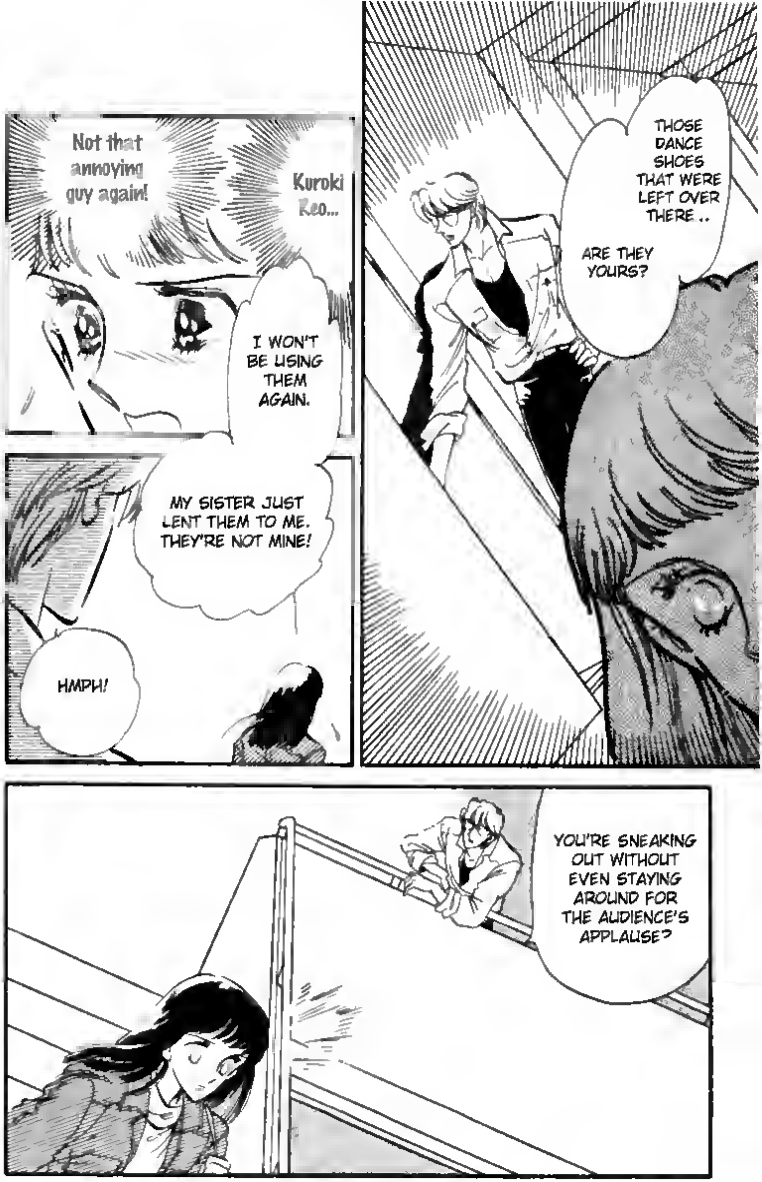
ALL OF A SUDDEN...
THIS IS BAD...
SHE'S SLIP-PING!
SHE BROKE RHYTHM AND SPED UP HER STEPS!
KEIMI!
MOM, KEIMI, SHE...
GET A GRIP!
IT'LL BE YOUR TURN ONSTAGE IN A WHILE!
Is it going to end...
...just like this?
I don't blend with the others!

Am I going to let him laugh at me forever?
No!
*SFX: STRONG MOTION
I don't want that!
EH?
AH...

SIS...
DID I BLEND IN WITH EVERYONE ELSE EARLIER?
IT'S MY TURN ONSTAGE NOW; I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
SIS?

I won't dance again...
My only time onstage...
It looks like...
I failed...
I've decided!
GRAB

I guess it's true that two cuckoos can never share the same nest!
Ballet is my big sister's domain.
Time to go
I'll have to find my own path!
HEY!
It's easier to walk with regular shoes anyway.


Not that annoying guy again!
Kuroki Reo...
I WON'T BE USING THEM AGAIN.
MY SISTER JUST LENT THEM TO ME. THEY'RE NOT MINE!
HMPH!
THOSE DANCE SHOES THAT WERE LEFT OVER THERE ..
ARE THEY YOURS?
YOU'RE SNEAKING OUT WITHOUT EVEN STAYING AROUND FOR THE AUDIENCE'S APPLAUSE?

WHAT A COWARD.
I'M SORRY, I FAILED.
I WANT TO DO YOUR MAKE-UP...
TAP TAP
IF IT'S MY MAKE-UP WORK...
NO, I WISH...
YOU TO WEAR MY MAKE-UP WHILE DANCING TO A SONG BY MAHLER!

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

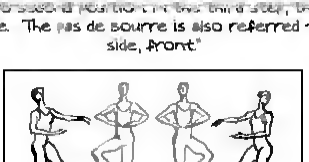
THE SOUND OF APPRECIATIVE APPLAUSE IS GETTING STRONGER.
CLAP
CLAP
I'M NOT LIKE THOSE DANCERS BACK THERE WHO'D BE HAPPY OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME ANYMORE!
GOOD-BYE!
STOP BEING SO HATEFUL!
I'm never going to dance again!
So I'll never have to encounter that odious person ever again!
Huh! Mahler!
He sure knows how to pull a person's leg!

SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS CHAPTER

Jeté: A jump from one foot to the other in which the working leg is brushed into the air and appears to have been thrown. There is a wide variety of pas jetés (usually called merely jetés) and they may be performed in all directions.
The image below is a jeté en avant.

Jeté battu: A jump in which the legs are crossed in the air before the descent.

Pas de bourré: The pas de bourree is a series of three steps. The first one crosses in back. In the second step, the opposite foot steps to second position. In the third step, the first foot steps in place. The pas de bourre is also referred to as "cross, side, front."



Gustav Mahler: (1860-1911) Austrian composer. Mahler was best known during his own lifetime as one of the leading orchestral and operatic conductors of the day. He composed primarily symphonies and songs. In recent years, his works have often been used for ballets and movie soundtracks.

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna

Volume 1 Chapter 2

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Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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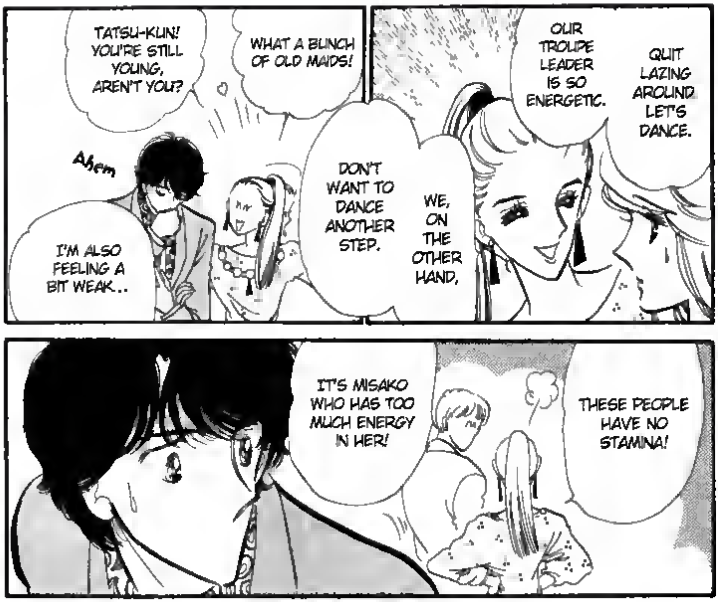
EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE SOME IRREGULARITIES, ON THE WHOLE IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
THAT'S JUST IT. THE IRREGULARITY...
SAKUKAN HOTEL
SENSEI HAS LOST FACE? JUST BECAUSE WE USED HER?
THAT'S RIGHT, NONE OF THE SENSEIS ARE HERE
MAYBE THEY'RE DISCUSSING WHAT HAPPENED?
...


TATSU-KUN! YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT A BUNCH OF OLD MAIDS!
Ahem
I'M ALSO FEELING A BIT WEAK...
DON'T WANT TO DANCE ANOTHER STEP.
WE, ON THE OTHER HAND,
OUR TROUPE LEADER IS SO ENERGETIC.
QUIT LAZING AROUND. LET'S DANCE.
IT'S MISAKO WHO HAS TOO MUCH ENERGY IN HER!
THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO STAMINA!

---!?
GOING TO THE RESTROOM, TATSURU-CHAN?

I'll call Keiwi up on the phone.
She didn't show up for the Thanksgiving party.
She must be feeling pretty down right now.

SHE DIDN'T LOOK THAT DEPRESSED TO ME.
Here, have some.
WHAT!?
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER!
AH, THANKS.
EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS OBVIOUS,
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS ME...
TATSURU...
IT CAN'T BE!
KEIMI CAN FEEL DEJECTION TOO.

DO YOU THINK SHE DIDN'T DANCE WELL?
WHILE IT'S TRUE SHE DIDN'T BLEND WELL WITH THE OTHERS,
AND HER BEAT WAS OFF...
THAT'S...
BECAUSE SHE WAS DANCING WITH SIX OTHERS.
IF WE ADD A BIT MORE TRAINING,
AND GIVE HER A SOLO,
THEN MAYBE...

THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE LEAPS OF HERS DEFINITELY SURPRISED ME!
MAYBE...?
That time...
Why didn't I answer her?
It must have hurt Keiwi badly.
Was it because... I felt Keiwi's dancing was threatening?

Am I jealous?
YOU LOOK GLOOMY.
HOW ABOUT LETTING ME COMFORT YOU?
AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT, EIJI-SAN?
LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE!
I GOT MY NEW BMW LAST WEEK
A DRIVE?
DRIVING ALONG THE HIGHWAY IN THE DARK
CAN BE PRETTY RELAXING!
SOUNDS GOOD...
LET'S GO!

LET'S GO THEN!
Dazzle
GULP

IT'S ALREADY 2 AM.
SORRY FOR WAKING YOU UP.
YEAH, I WENT SOMEWHERE ELSE AFTER THE RECITAL...
STARTLE
SIS!
DID THE COMPANY MEMBERS SAY ANYTHING?
AFTER THE RECITAL...
...
SLAM
SORRY, I'M GOING TO BED. LET'S JUST TALK AGAIN TOMORROW.
...
I WON'T DANCE...
I wanted to say that I'm going to quit dancing...

Why is this happening?

Ever since I saw Keimi dance...

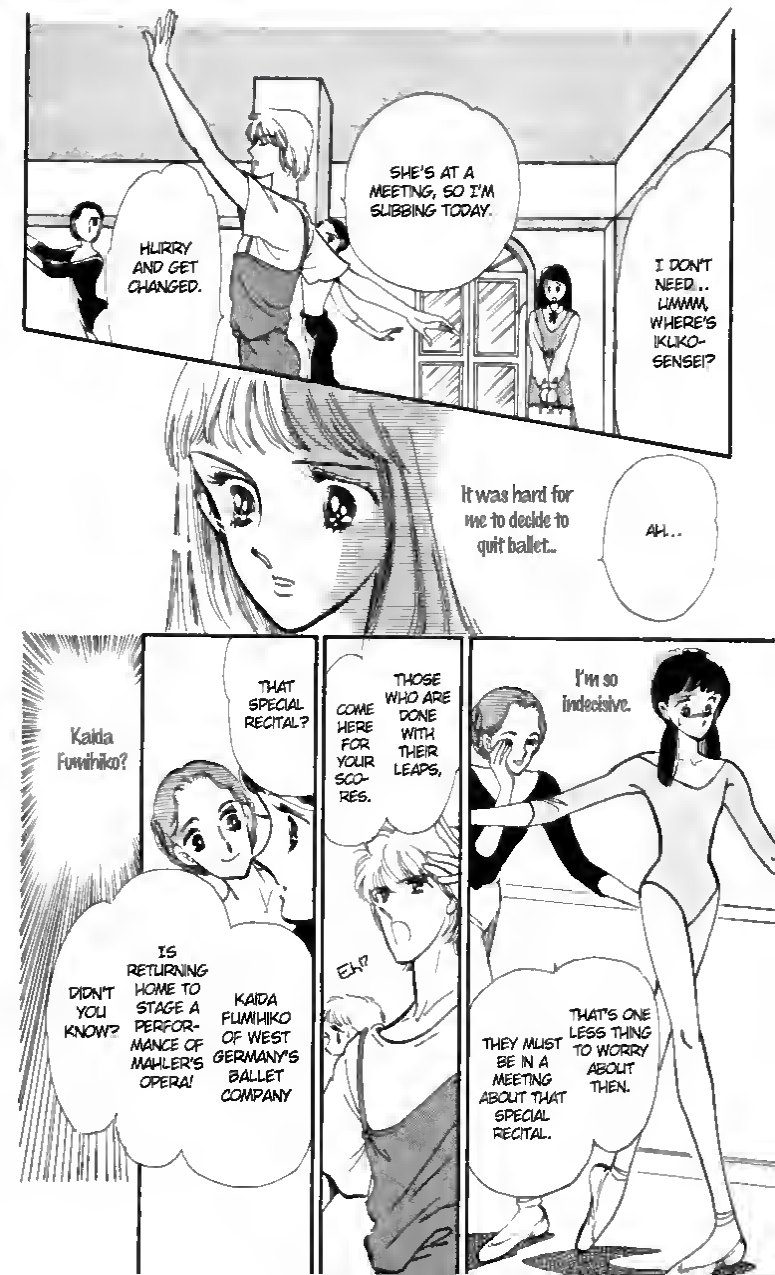
Ringing
Ringing
NATSU-CHAN, PICK UP THE OTHER LINE.
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION.
EH?
YES, THIS IS THE TOKYO MIZUKOSHI BALLET COMPANY.
WHICH ONE?
KUROKI-KUN?
IKUKO-SENSEI, ARE YOU BUSY?
KNOCK
A CALL THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND IF IT'S NOT CALLS FROM DANCE FANS, IT'S FROM THE REPORTERS!
A MEETING?
OVER YESTERDAY'S FIASCO?
WHAT A BOTHER!

AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE I...
DECIDED TO USE A NO-NAME NEW-COMER...
HER..
MORIKAWA KEIKI'S FEET...
JUDGING FROM HER STANCE WHILE ON POINTE,
HER BIG TOE AND HER MIDDLE TOE ARE THE SAME LENGTH, AREN'T THEY?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT'S EVERY DANCER'S IDEAL IN TERMS OF FOOT SHAPE...
KUROKI-KUN, YOU HAVE VERY SHARP EYES INDEED!

BUT.. THAT'S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER ALTO-GETHER!
SHE MUST STILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENED!
YOU'RE EXPELLING HER?
SENSEI!!
...
I HAVE AN IDEA..

They can't expel
Morikawa Keimi,
can they?

FOURTH POSITION.
YES, IN FRONT!
SIDE!
DEMI PLIE, EMPHA-SIZE.
CREAK
MORIKAWA KEIMI-SAN! YOU'RE LATE AGAIN!
Erm


HURRY AND GET CHANGED.
SHE'S AT A MEETING, SO I'M SUBBING TODAY.
I DON'T NEED.. UMMM, WHERE'S IKUKO-SENSEI?
It was hard for me to decide to quit ballet..
AH...
I'm so indecisive.
THOSE WHO ARE DONE WITH THEIR LEAPS, COME HERE FOR YOUR SCORES.
EH?
THAT'S ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT THEN.
THEY MUST BE IN A MEETING ABOUT THAT SPECIAL RECITAL.
THAT SPECIAL RECITAL?
Kaida Fumihiko?
KAIDA FUMIHIKO OF WEST GERMANY'S BALLET COMPANY IS RETURNING HOME TO STAGE A PERFORMANCE OF MAHLER'S OPERA!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

THE HEARSAY IS THAT KUROKI-SAN IS KAIDA FUMIHIKO'S ILLEGITIMATE SON...
His father?
SO HIGH...
NEXT!
I WANT YOU TO DANCE TO MAHLER WHILE WEARING MY MAKEUP.
Mahler under Kaida Fumihiko's direction?
Was that what he was talking about?
KEIKI! IT'S YOUR TURN!
PUSH!

I'm not stupid enough to take him seriously!
He was just playing around with me.
What a joke!
95 POINTS.
HOW LOVELY..
OH

MORIKAWA KEIMI.
DIRECTOR'S ROOM
ADVANCED CLASS.
SIXTEEN YEARS OLD.
報告
美
OFTEN LATE, NOT SERIOUS IN HER LESSONS...
HALFHEARTED, AND DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY AMBITION FOR HER FUTURE ..
A STUDENT WHO ISN'T SERIOUS SHOULD JUST BE EXPELLED!
HER REPORT CARD GRADES AREN'T SO GOOD EITHER.

DIRECTOR, THE REPORT ISN'T OVER YET, IS IT?
PLEASE CONTINUE.
THIS IS SETTING A BAD PRECEDENT FOR THE OTHER STUDENTS.
EVERYBODY'S TOO LAX WITH HER BECAUSE SHE'S MORIKAWA CHIHARU'S YOUNGER SISTER..
AH.
HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL ABILITY AND DRAWING IN AUDIENCES, SHE'S RATHER SHARP.
AND YET SHE'S STILL ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR LEVEL.
COMPARED TO OTHERS WHO TRAIN DILIGENTLY, SHE ONLY SPENDS A THIRD OF THE TIME THEY SPEND IN PRACTICING!
THAT'S RIGHT!

IF WE CAN AWAKEN HER TO THE JOY OF BALLET,
AND COMBINE THAT WITH INTENSIVE TRAINING, SHE MIGHT EVEN SURPASS HER SISTER!
SURPASS MORIKAWA CHIHARU?
IKUKO-SENSEI, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE RATING HER TOO HIGHLY?
HA HA
SHE CAN'T EVEN DANCE IN A CORPS DE BALLET PROPERLY!
MORIKAWA KEIMI'S MESS-UP ONSTAGE LAST NIGHT WAS MY FAULT.
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I DECIDED TO PUT HER ONSTAGE.

Flop
Sigh
USING HER MIGHT HAVE BEEN A CAUSE FOR DISASTER.
BUT IT ALSO CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS!
PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO AWAKEN HER TO HER TALENT!
WON'T IT BE AMUSING TO GIVE IT A TRY?
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

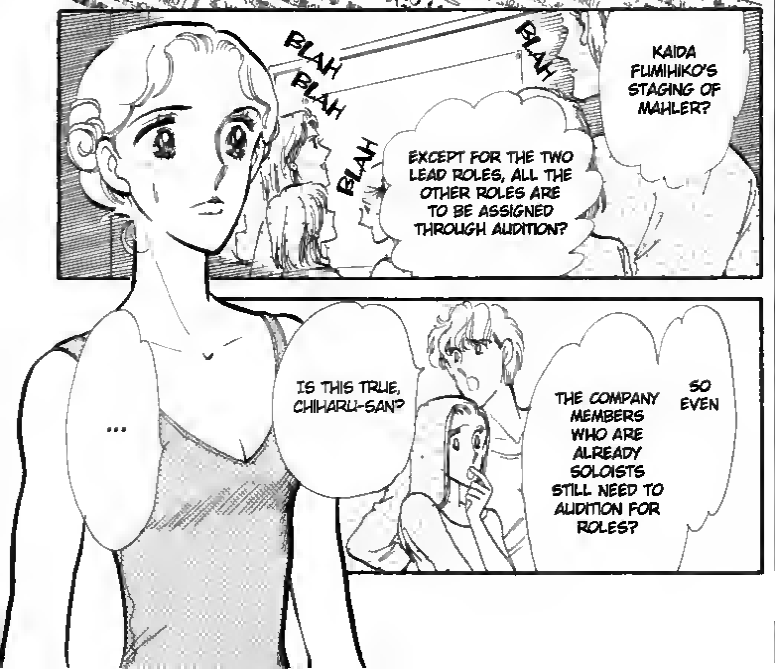
FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE AUDITIONS FOR THE NEXT RECITAL...
I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT ANY AUDITION!
AUDITIONS?
DIRECTOR!
OF COURSE, DISCOVERING NEW TALENTS THROUGH THE AUDITIONS WOULD BE GREAT.
I DISCUSSED THIS POINT WITH KUROKI-SAN.
ASIDE FROM THE SPECIAL ROLES, ALL OTHER ROLES WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH AUDITIONS. BUT WE'RE STILL DECIDING ON THE PARTICULARS.
AND A BALLET COMPANY IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW PEOPLE...

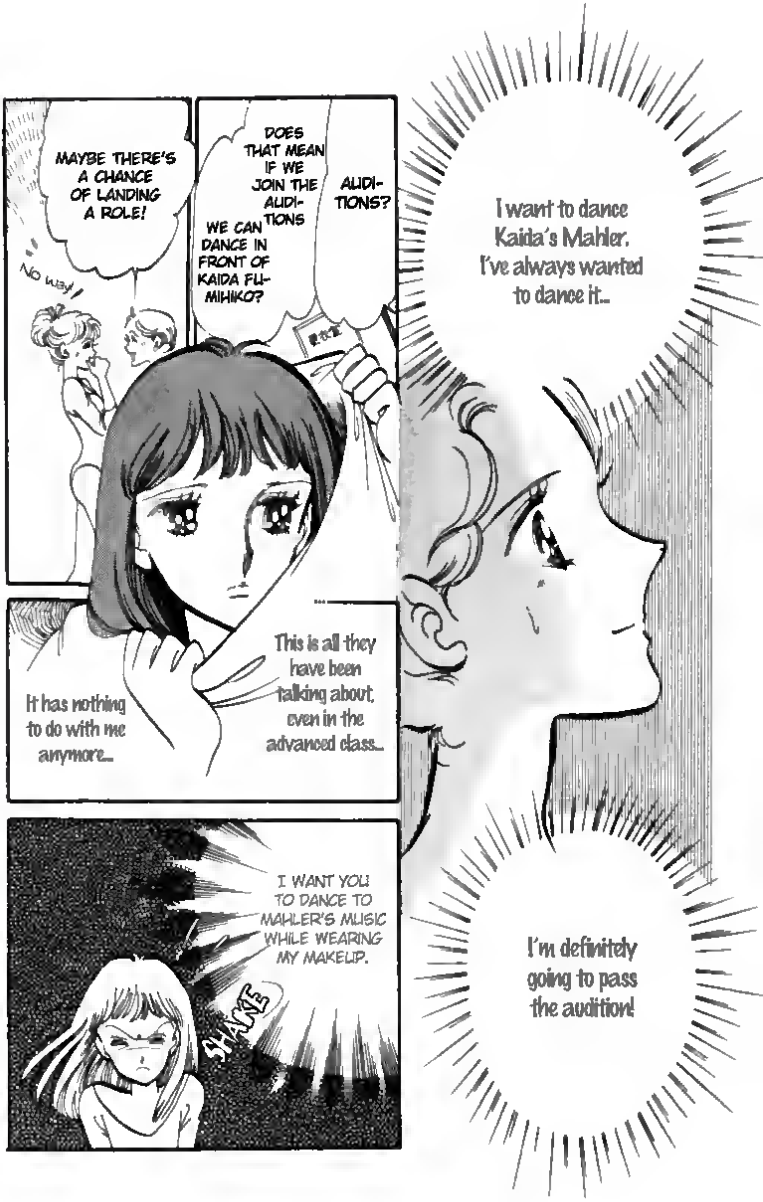
THAT'S TOO RASH! SHE'S JUST A STUDENT!
LET MORIKAWA KEIMI JOIN THE AUDITIONS THEN!
AS TO WHETHER IKUKO-SENSEI'S PROTEGE ACTUALLY POSSESSES THE DEGREE OF TALENT SHE CLAIMS, WELL, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROVE IT ONCE AND FOR ALL.
IS THAT ACCEPT-ABLE, IKUKO-SENSEI?
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
NO WAY
DON'T FORGET OUR COMPANY'S MOTTO,
A BIRD WITH WINGS MUST FLY HIGH!

Flush
KUROKI-KUN, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO PUT A PERSON THROUGH THE EMOTIONAL WRINGER, DON'T YOU?
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D TOLD ME ABOUT THE AUDITIONS EARLIER?
THAT MADE ME BREAK OUT INTO A COLD SWEAT!
A BIRD WHO'S MEANT TO FLY...
YOU HAD SO MUCH CONFIDENCE THAT EVEN THE DIRECTOR WAS WON OVER.
BUT WE MIGHT BE PUTTING HER INTO A DOUBLY DIFFICULT SITUATION.
HOWEVER, IF SHE REALLY IS A BIRD WHO'S MEANT TO FLY, SHE MUST FLY FAR AND HIGH INDEED!

THIS GUT INSTINCT...
I PROBABLY GOT IT FROM MY FATHER...
IT'LL ALL DEPEND ON HER OWN INITIATIVE FROM HERE ONWARD
WHY ARE YOU SO CONCERNED ABOUT HER ANYWAY?
LIKE YOU, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I ALSO FEEL THAT SHE'S A PRODIGY.
The same expressions.
The same passion.
Sometimes it makes me mistake him with that person...

West Germany's Ballet Company's
Kaida Fumihiko returns!
Can they match the world-class Kaida Fumihiko's performance level?
Tokyo Mizukoshi Ballet Company special commemorative recital!


BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
EXCEPT FOR THE TWO LEAD ROLES, ALL THE OTHER ROLES ARE TO BE ASSIGNED THROUGH AUDITION?
KAIDA FUMIHIKO'S STAGING OF MAHLER?
...
IS THIS TRUE, CHIHARU-SAN?
THE COMPANY MEMBERS WHO ARE ALREADY SOLOISTS STILL NEED TO AUDITION FOR ROLES?
SO EVEN


I want to dance Kaida's Mahler. I've always wanted to dance it...
AUDITIONS?
DOES THAT MEAN IF WE JOIN THE AUDITIONS WE CAN DANCE IN FRONT OF KAIDA FUMIHIKO?
MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE OF LANDING A ROLE!
No way!
This is all they have been talking about, even in the advanced class...
It has nothing to do with me anymore...
I WANT YOU TO DANCE TO MAHLER'S MUSIC WHILE WEARING MY MAKEUP.
SHAKE
I'm definitely going to pass the audition!

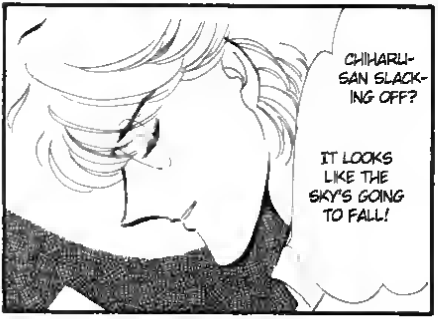
I WANT TO WATCH YOU DANCE TO MAHLER'S SYMPHONY...
KEIKI!

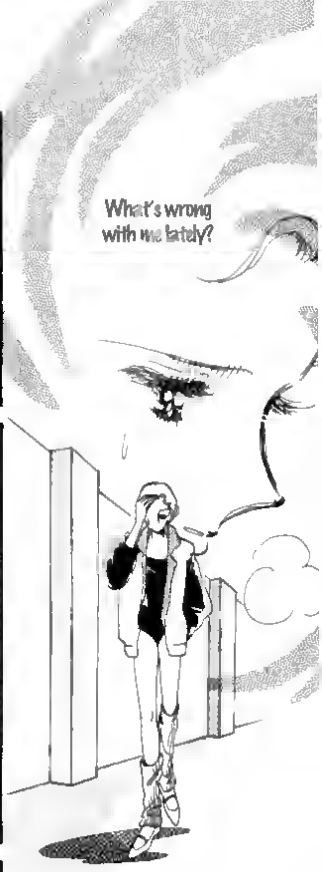
KEIMI!
Woosh
Creek
UMM...
THE WATER'S BEEN FLOWING NONSTOP!
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY!
AH...
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO BE LIKE THIS!
Giggle
WELL, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STRANGE ONE. IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING EVEN STRANGER THESE PAST FEW DAYS...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY!

EH?
ALWAYS SIGHING AND STARING INTO SPACE.
NOT ANSWERING QUESTIONS WHEN YOU'RE ASKED...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE?
DID I GUESS RIGHT?
DON'T TALK ANYMORE!
I'M GOING AHEAD.
...
TAKE CARE...
SLAM
Sis really has been acting weird lately...

I wanted to talk to her about leaving the company.
What a bother!
I really don't know how to broach the topic.
TOKYO MIZUKOSHI BALLET COMPANY SCHOOL OF BALLET
I'll look for someone more fun and carefree to talk to!
How aggravating...
Sparkle
Sparkle

SAUTE!
ATTITUDE CROISE DERRIERE!
CHIHARU-SAN! YOUR POINTE IS UNSTABLE!
...
IT'S NOTHING, I JUST TWISTED MY FOOT...
CHIHARU-SAN!
YOU LOOK KIND OF PALE. MAYBE YOU SHOULD REST.





I feel so uneasy...

I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE OUT IN THE SELECTION.
BECAUSE OF THE AUDI-TIONS?
RIGHT NOW'S A VERY CRUCIAL TIME!
NOT SLACKING OFF, JUST RESTING FOR A BIT.
FLAP
BUT DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.
CHIHARU-SAN, YOUR FEEL-INGS DO YOU CREDIT THEY MAKE UP FOR YOUR DEFICIENCIES IN TECHNIQUE.
OH, GO AHEAD AND SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT TO!
YOU ARE SUCH A SELF-CONFIDENT PERSON.
YOU'VE GOT EVERYBODY FOOLED BY YOUR APPEARANCE. THE TRUTH IS YOU HAVE MORE THAN YOUR SHARE OF CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.
IT'S MUCH EASIER TO GO FORWARD THIS WAY.

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SOMEONE WHO'S WORTHY OF BEING YOUR RIVAL WILL APPEAR.
THAT RIVAL IS STILL IN HIBERNATION AND DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HERSELF. IT'S UNCLEAR WHEN SHE'LL AWAKEN...
HOW SCARY!
LIKE SOME SORT OF MONSTER IS GOING TO APPEAR.
THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
...
WHO IS IT?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.

Who could it be?
To make Kuroki-san describe her like that...
Ikuko-sensei must be at the training hall at this time.
I'll just go look for Tatsu-kun!

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna

Volume 1 Chapter 3

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Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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Thanks for reading!

The Barcardle Team

SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS CHAPTER

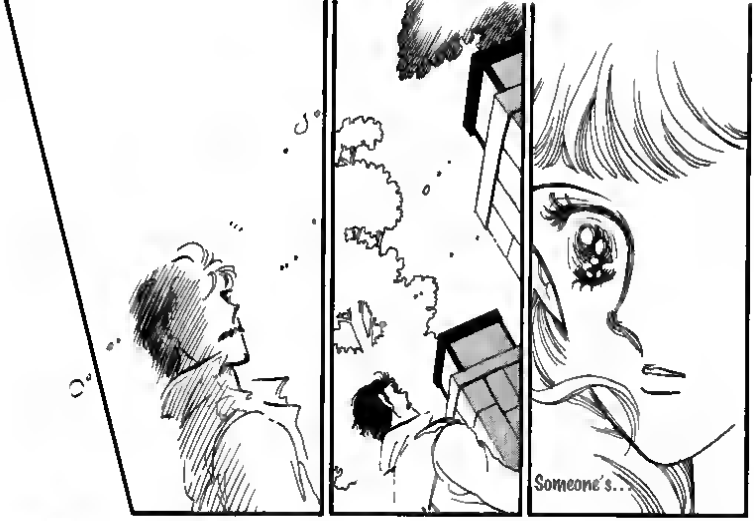
On pointe: is the act of standing on the tips of the toes while performing steps from ballet. Also known as pointe work, it is performed using hard-toed and stiff-shanked pointe shoes. Dancing en pointe requires strength and skill and is a central part of a female ballet dancer's training and repertoire.

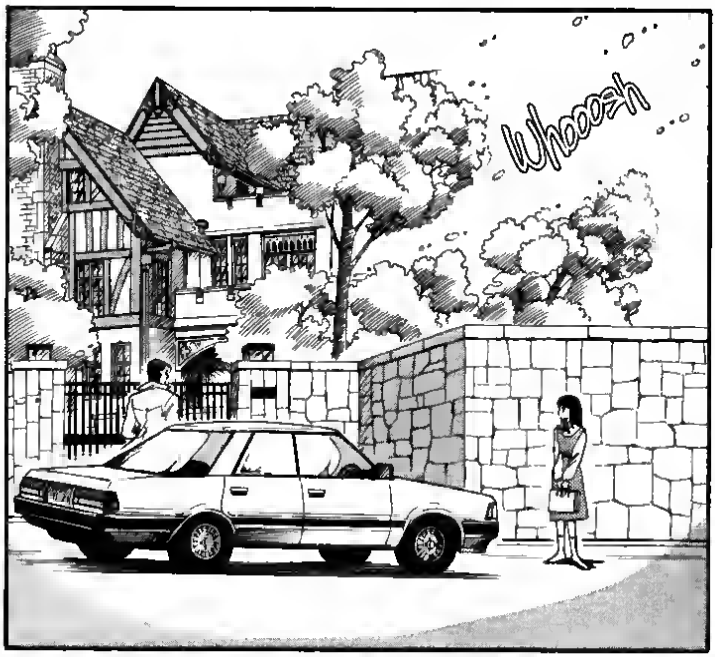
Fourth Position: One of the five basic positions of the feet in classical ballet. In the fourth position, one foot rests about 12 inches in advance of the other; both are turned out, and the weight is divided between them.

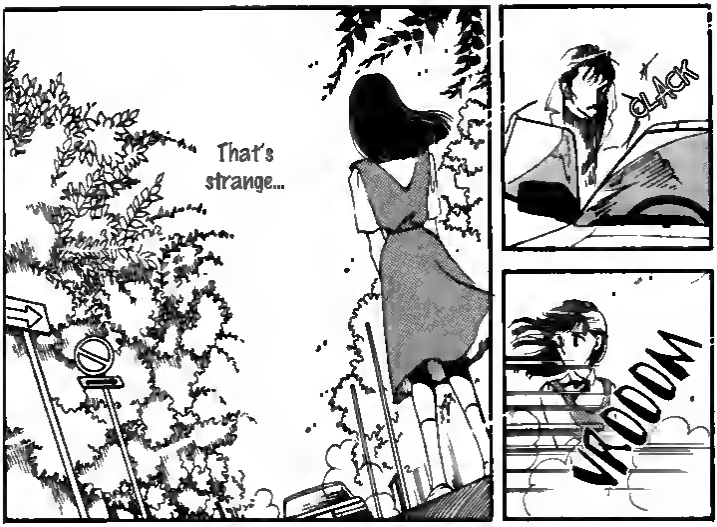
Demi-plié: Plié is a smooth and continuous bending of the knees.

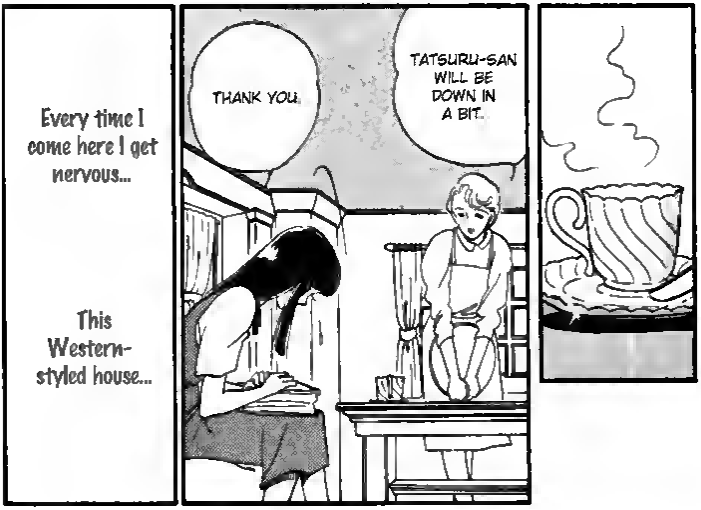
Croise Derriere: One of the 5 ballet body positions. It can be translated as crossed in back.

I can already guess his reaction...
KEIMI, DANCE MAHLER?
WA HA HA
I'm sure it'll be like that!
Whoosh
There's a car parked in front of Tatsu-kun's house...
Stop


Someone's...


Whoooosh


That's strange...
CLACK
VROOOM


Every time I come here I get nervous...
This Western-styled house...
THANK YOU.
TATSURU-SAN WILL BE DOWN IN A BIT.

He was a bank executive, and he would come watch Fujimura-sensei's performance of Odette every day.
It's a picture of Tatsu-kun's deceased father
I AM
KEIMI! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
Now she just looks scary...
Sensei was so pretty...
Back when she was young
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
KUROKI-SAN IS HERE TOO!
HI!

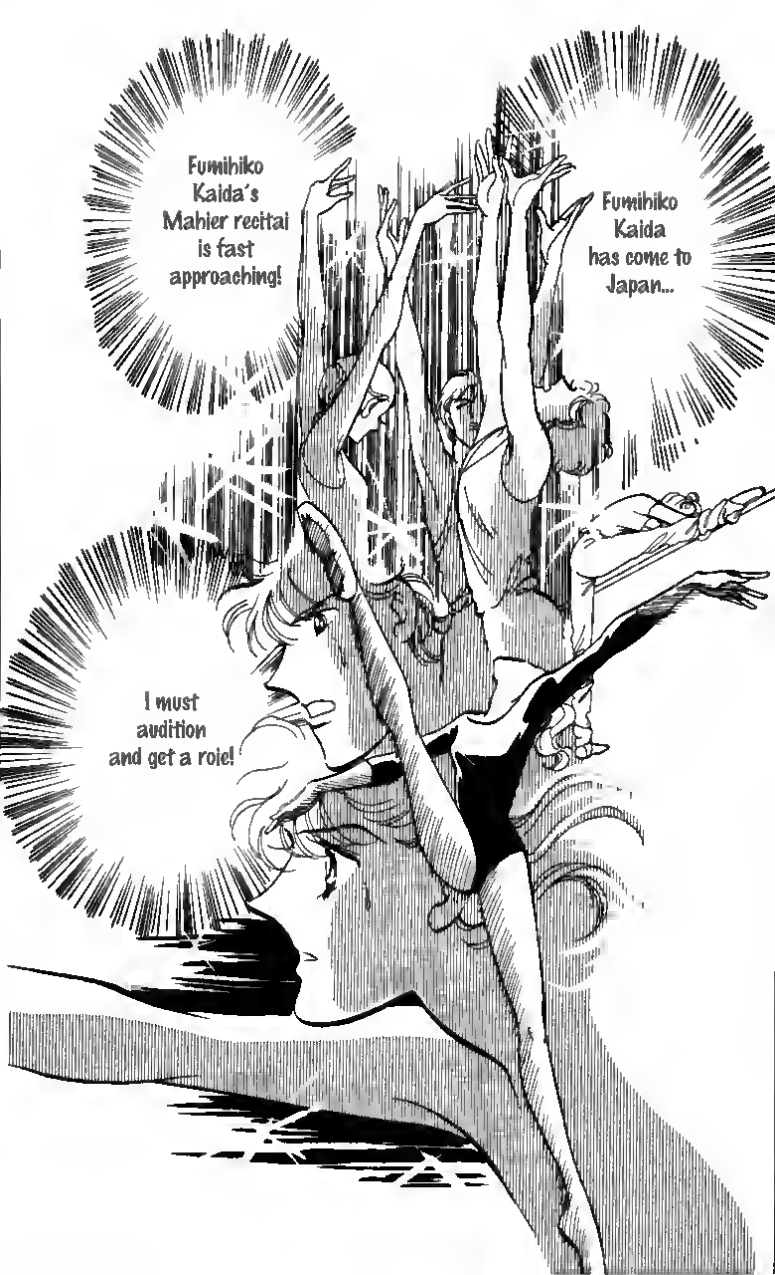
?
NO, IT'S FINE.
How am I supposed to talk about anything when he is also here?
YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING?
KEIMI, YOU ALRIGHT?
COUGH
Pat
GULP
Click
HE'S STILL BIG NEWS!
JUST THE OTHER DAY. I SAW IT ON TV.
FUMIHIKO KAIDA...
HAS ARRIVED IN JAPAN?

*FRENCH CHOREOGRAPHERS

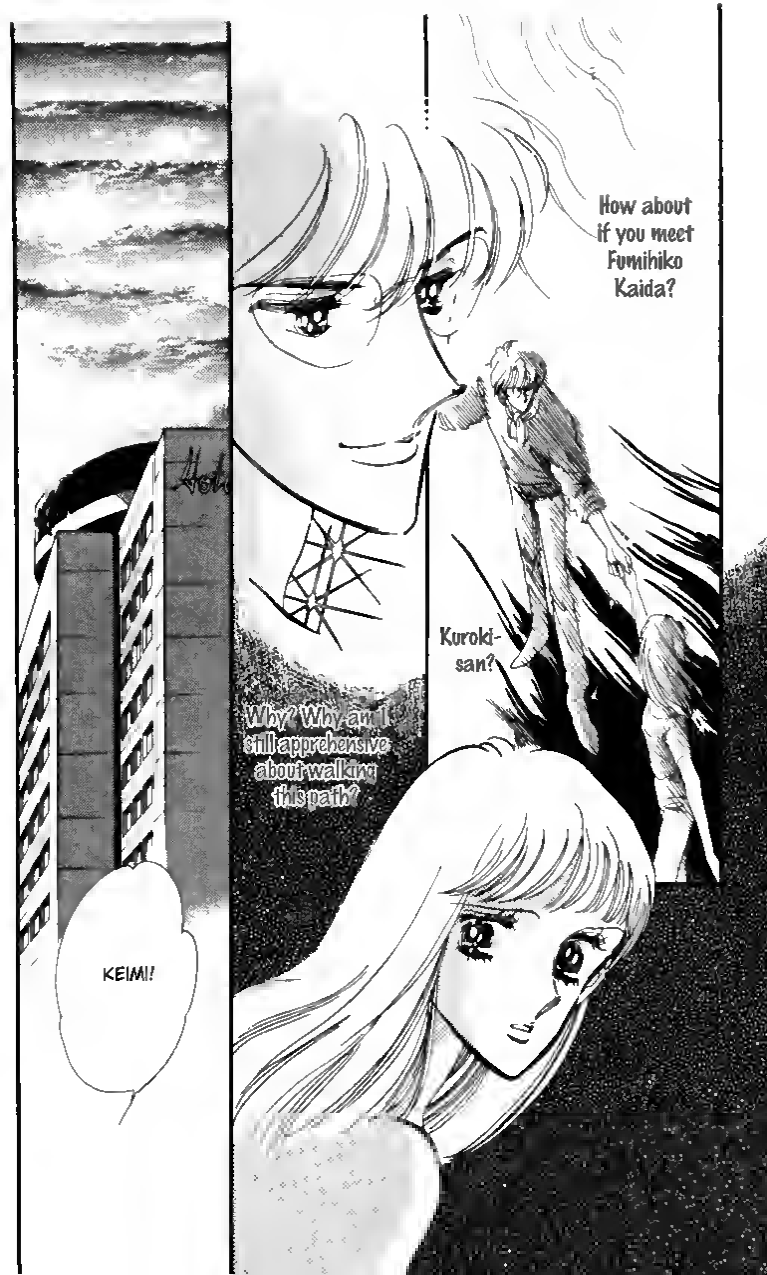
How can Tatsu-kun talk about something like this in front of Kuroki-san?
HE'S A BIGWIG DANCER, HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST BEJART OR ROLAND PETIT*!
UMM...
KEIMI, DID YOU SEE?
LOOK!
コンチェルト
THERE'S AN ARTICLE ABOUT HIM IN THIS ISSUE OF "CONCERTO" MAGAZINE...
Doesn't he care at all?
SEE, HERE, AND HERE!
Huh?

That's him?
Wasn't he standing outside the gate...?
Fumihiko Kaida
Was that Fumihiko Kaida?
THAT MAN WAS JUST...
HOW ABOUT... IF I ARRANGE FOR YOU TO MEET FUMIHIKO KAIDA?

REALLY?
HOW ABOUT IF TATSURU
AND YOU BOTH MEET HIM...?


Fumihiko Kaida's Mahler recital is fast approaching!
Fumihiko Kaida has come to Japan...
I must audition and get a role!

I want to be noticed!
Noticed by Fumihiko Kaida!
I want to enter his world!


How about if you meet Fumihiko Kaida?
Kuroki-san?
Why? Why, am I still apprehensive about walking this path?
KEIMI!

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D BE LATE, SO I ARRANGED TO MEET YOU FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLY, BUT YOU WERE STILL LATE!
I RAN SO HARD I GAVE MYSELF A CRAMP, AND NOW YOU'RE BLAMING ME?
Pant Pant
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
Click
HOW CAN YOU BE LATE WHEN WE'RE MEETING SOMEBODY SO IMPORTANT?!
I SUPPOSE KUROKI-SAN IS ALREADY HERE.
TATSU-KUN..
Hoosh
SHOULD I REALLY MEET HIM?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE AUDITION, AND YOU'LL BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY..
BUT I..

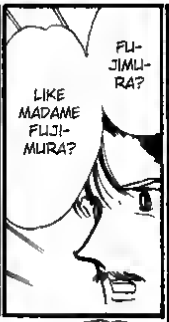
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
BESIDES, KUROKI-SAN THINKS HIGHLY OF YOU..
FUMIHIKO KAIDA IS SUCH A HUGE STAR.
HE'S SURE TO TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND SEE THAT I'M NOTHING SPECIAL...
WHAT IF HE YELLS AT ME? I'M SCARED...
KEIMI!
Grab
I'M WITH YOU!
!

KUROKI-SAMA LEFT A MESSAGE.
YES.
FUJIMURA-SAMA?
WE'RE MEETING WITH FUMIHIKO KAIDA BY OUR-SELVES?
HE SAID THAT HE'S BUSY, SO KAIDA-SAMA WILL BE MEETING YOU BY HIMSELF.
Huh? What the...
KUROKI-KUN WON'T BE COMING AT ALL?

Fumihiko Kaida!!
A MESSAGE?
I'M FROM THE MIZUKOSHI BALLET COMPANY. WE WERE INVITED HERE BY KUROKI-SAN...
HOW DO YOU DO, KAIDA-SENSEI?
QUICK

Tatsu-kun sure has guts...
THIS IS SO EXCITING!
I DIDN'T HEAR..
Shake
Shake

YOU KNOW MY MOTHER?
YES, SHE'S A DANCE INSTRUCTOR AT OUR BALLET COMPANY'S SCHOOL!

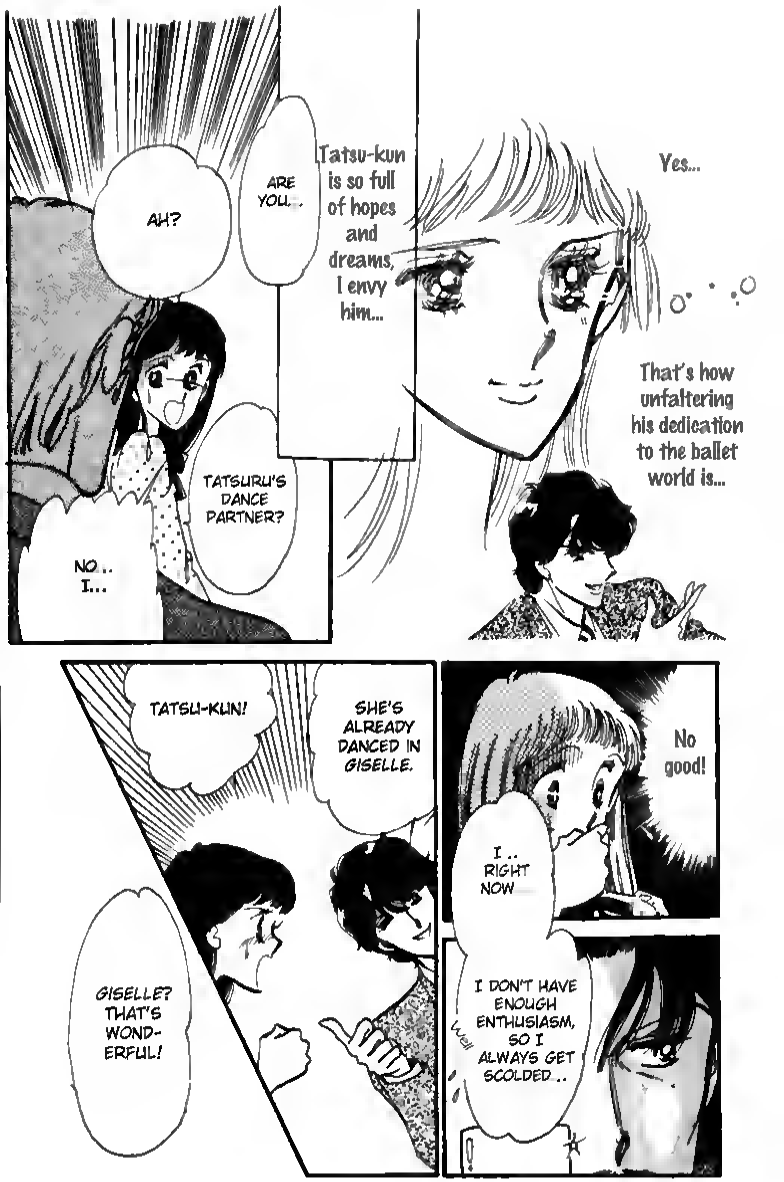

FUJIMURA?
LIKE MADAME FUJIMURA?

YOU ARE...?
MY NAME IS FUJIMURA TATSURU. I'M TWENTY YEARS OLD. I MADE MY STAGE DEBUT LAST YEAR.

He was the one standing in front of Tatsu-kun's gate...
It is him!
YOU'RE HER SON?

THUMP
THUMP
MY NAME IS KEIMI MORI-KAWA...
I'M A STUDENT AT THE BALLET SCHOOL...
But, why...?
IN THE TIME THAT I'VE BEEN GONE FROM JAPAN, THE YOUNGER GENERATION HAS GROWN UP ALREADY...
Hu
THEN AGAIN, I AM OLD...
AND THIS YOUNG LADY?
A GOD OF BALLET! A GOD OF WAR!
YOU'RE NOT OLD!
YOU'RE THE PRIDE OF JAPAN!
Oh dear

BUT BEFORE HARMONY CAN BE ACHIEVED, THERE MUST FIRST BE REVOLUTION!
ONLY THEN CAN THE HARMONY BE LASTING!
WAR?
THEN IS THE IMAGE I PROJECT ONE OF STRENGTH?
WHAT I SEEK IS HARMONY..
HARMONY WITH NATURE...
HARMONY WITH GOD...
THAT FRANKNESS OF YOURS REMINDS ME SO OF YOUR MOTHER.
Tatsu-kun is so cool, even around a world-famous dancer...
IS THAT A GOOD THING?
HU HU HU
OF COURSE!

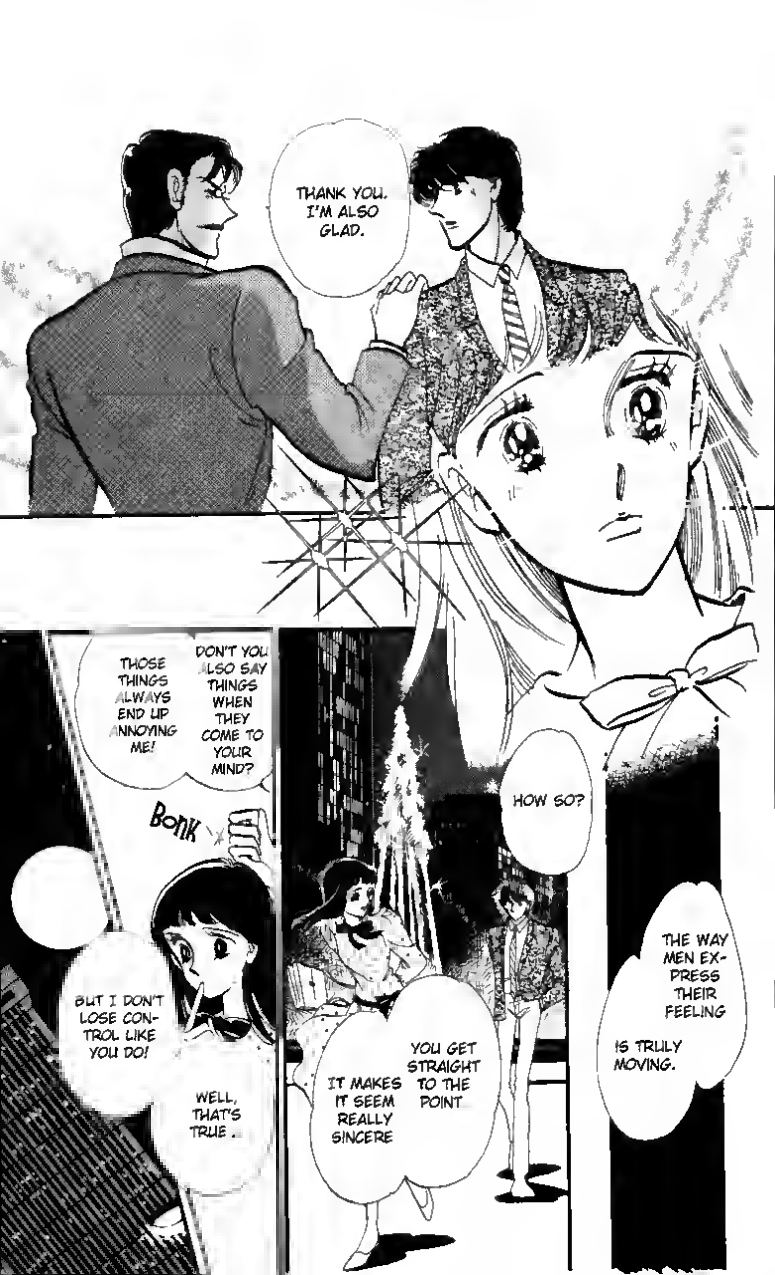

AH?
ARE YOU...
TATSURU'S DANCE PARTNER?
NO.. I...
Tatsu-kun is so full of hopes and dreams, I envy him...
Yes...
That's how unfaltering his dedication to the ballet world is...
TATSU-KUN!
SHE'S ALREADY DANCED IN GISELLE.
GISELLE? THAT'S WOND-ERFUL!
No good!
I.. RIGHT NOW
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENTHUSIASM, SO I ALWAYS GET SCOLDED ..
Well

EVERY TIME YOU DANCE...
YOU DISCOVER A NEW WAY OF INTERPRETATION.
THAT ALLOWS YOU TO INDULGE IN IT...
...YES
Huh?
Why was I just so sure of that answer?
It's like some sort of magic...

His eyes have this strength that draws you in...
WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG
YOU GO THROUGH ROUTINES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SUPPRESSING ALL THE JOY INSIDE YOURSELF...
BUT BEFORE LONG
Just like Kuroki-san's...
IT TRANSFORMS INTO PURITY OF EXPRESSION AND JOYOUSNESS...
BECAUSE WITHOUT YOU KNOWING IT, IT SHIFTS FROM EXPRESSING ACTION TO EXPRESSING YOUR OWN LIFE.
USING YOUR BODY TO DRAW OUT YOUR INNER SOUL..

ONCE YOU REACH THAT POINT, YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE WORLD OF BALLET
SUDDENLY, CLOTHES, ACCESSORIES, SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS, AND ALL THOSE OTHER THINGS ARE CAST ASIDE,
LEAVING ONLY THE NAKED SOUL.
Gulp
THAT'S WHAT I'M AIMING FOR!
ARE YOU AND KUROKI-SAN FATHER AND SON?
KAIDA-SENSEI!
PLEASE EXCUSE ME, I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT.

Tatsu-kun, you idiot!
YOU REALLY ARE ALIKE. IN APPEARANCE AND SENSIBILITY..
THAT'S A GIVEN FOR FATHER AND SON, BUT..
I LIKE KUROKI-SAN, AND THAT'S WHY IT WOULD MAKE ME GLAD..
PAT


THANK YOU. I'M ALSO GLAD.
THOSE THINGS ALWAYS END UP ANNOYING ME!
DON'T YOU ALSO SAY THINGS WHEN THEY COME TO YOUR MIND?
BONK
BUT I DON'T LOSE CONTROL LIKE YOU DO!
WELL, THAT'S TRUE..
HOW SO?
THE WAY MEN EXPRESS THEIR FEELING
IS TRULY MOVING.
YOU GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT
IT MAKES IT SEEM REALLY SINCERE

KEIM!
KAIDA-SAN TRULY IS ADMI-RABLE.
I'M GLAD WE WERE BOTH ABLE TO MEET HIM.
TATSU-KUN, YOU REALLY ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY!
HONEST!
KEIM, DID THAT COME FROM THE HEART?
HMMM?
HOLD

TAP
I...
I WANT TO TRY MY HAND AT THE AUDITIONS..
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHETHER I REALLY LIKE BALLET OR NOT..
BUT I WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
I'LL LEAVE THE FUTURE WHERE IT BELONGS, IN THE FUTURE!
HA..
WAS THAT.. ALSO FROM THE HEART?
YES

UH-HUH!
LET'S BOTH GET ROLES IN THE PRODUCTION!
DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE OLDER STUDENTS!
GIVE IT YOUR BEST, KEIMI!
An invitation to the audition?
Keimi...?
Thanks Tatsu-kun...
HAVE YOU FINALLY BECOME SERIOUS ABOUT DANCING?
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
YOU PEEKED?
WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
SIS? YOU'RE HOME?
YOU'RE AUDITIONING?

YOU WERE SO BUSY, I NEVER GOT TO TELL YOU..
I MET FUMIHIKO KAIDA...
WHAT?
KUROKI-SAN INTRODUCED TATSU-KUN AND ME.
KUROKI-SAN IN-TRODUCED YOU?
HOW COME, KEIMI?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER!
KUROKI-SAN JUST TOLD ME TO TRY DANCING MAHLER..
AND I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE WHEN HE MENTI-ONED IT,
SO I GOT DRAGGED INTO IT AS WELL...
SIS...?
TATSU-KUN WANTED TO MEET KAIDA-SAN
SLAM

TAP
Kuroki-san isn't the type to play mind games...
So the rival he was referring to...
...was Keiri?
TURN!
A BIT FASTER! MORE FORCE!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO AUDITION, YOU'LL NEED THE DETERMINATION, OR YOU WON'T BE SELECTED
NO MORE BEING LATE AND NO MORE SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO DANCE!
YOU CAN'T KEEP UP THAT ATTITUDE YOU'VE HAD UP TILL NOW.

YES, MADAME!
I'LL DO..
MY BEST AND SEE...
WELL, GO ON!
YUP!
For her, that's already a big improvement...
Her wings...
...are starting to spread...
KEIMI, TO THE CENTER!

YES!
I don't know why...
But I feel so happy when I'm dancing!

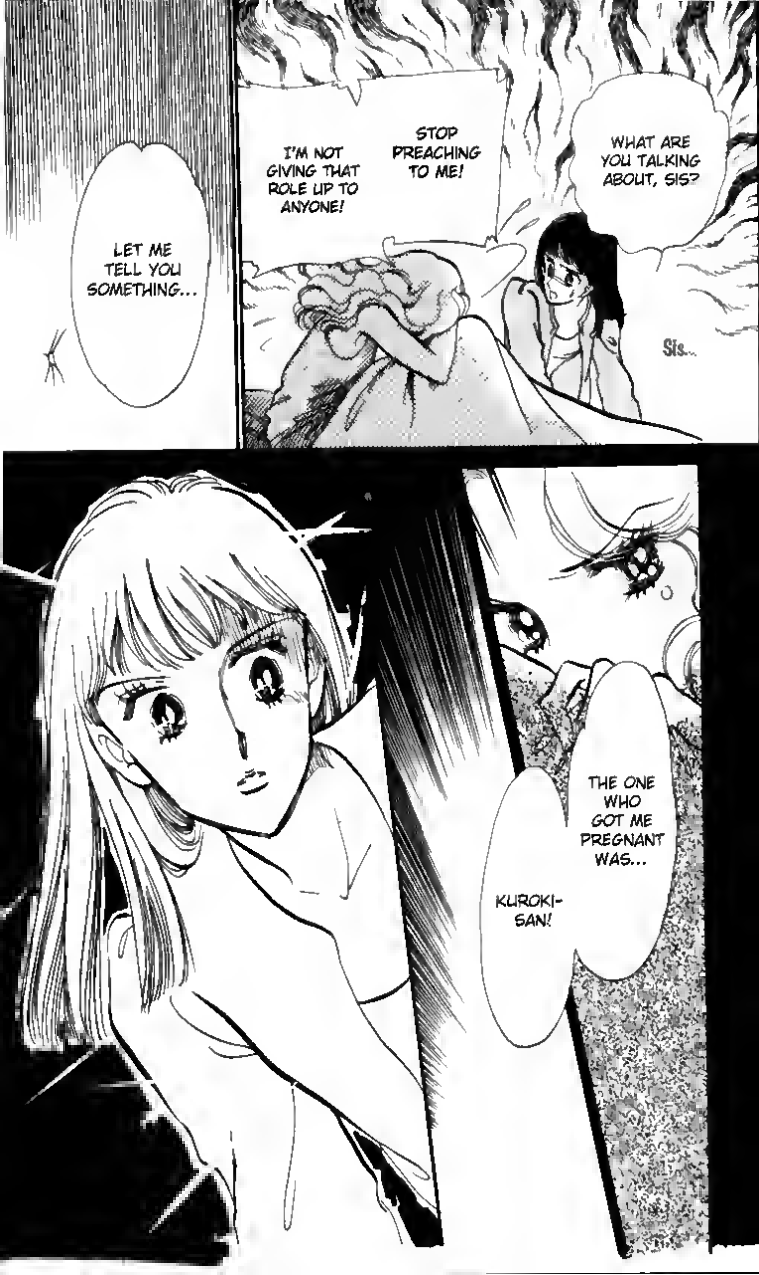
ARA-BESQUE!
My body feels so heavy...
THE LEGS MUST BE FULLY EX-TENDED!
It hurts...!
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIHARU?
YOUR LEG ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH.
I feel like I'm suffocating!
CHIHARU!

HORIUCHI-SENSEI!
I HEARD MY SISTER COLLAPSED?
SHE'S WITH THE DOCTOR NOW.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED, OR MAYBE SHE HAD A DIZZY SPELL.
YOU'RE HER SISTER?
YES!
HOW IS SHE?
WHY IS SHE PUSHING HERSELF, IN HER CONDITION?
HER BODY CAN'T HANDLE THAT KIND OF EXERTION...
HUH?

SHE HAD A MISCARRIAGE.
SHE WAS TWO AND A HALF MONTHS PREGNANT.
Miscarriage?
Sis...?
PERHAPS SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT HERSELF.
CHIHARU, SHE...
DON'T WORRY, I DID A FULL EXAMINATION, AND I GAVE HER SOMETHING TO HELP HER REST.
I'LL HAVE TO REPORT THIS...
SENSEI!
SHE'LL BE FINE.

I UNDERSTAND...
THEN I'LL KEEP THIS TO MYSELF...
IT WON'T LOOK GOOD FOR HER...
IF THIS GETS OUT...
BUT...
DON'T WORRY, CHIHARU'S COMPANY'S ONE OF THE IT WON'T TOP DANHAVE ANY CERS. NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TH T.
I'LL CALL A CAB FOR HER LATER.
KEEP HER COMPANY.
THANK YOU!
I never imagined sis would have a guy she likes. I thought ballet was her only love!
No wonder she's been so strange lately...
A miscarriage...

I wonder who it was that could make sis forget herself?
KEIMI ..
Who could it be?
NO WAY!
THE AUDITION IS COMING UP SOON..
YOU HAVE TO STOP PRACTICING FOR A WHILE
DON'T GET UP!
YOU NEED TO REST.
WHAT?
OH, STOP PRETENDING! YOU'RE JUST HAPPY TO HAVE ONE LESS COMPETITOR!!
YES WAY! IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF NOW, YOU'LL DO EVEN MORE DAMAGE!
THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES!


LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...
I'M NOT GIVING THAT ROLE UP TO ANYONE!
STOP PREACHING TO ME!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SIS?
Sis...
THE ONE WHO GOT ME PREGNANT WAS...
KUROKI-SAN!

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna

Volume 1 Chapter 4

Translated by Iran
Proofread by Mars
Cleaned by Otolume
Edited by Nikkou

Barcarolle
http://barcarolles.wordpress.com/

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Kuroki-san's?
The baby she miscarried was Kuroki-san's?
Kuroki-san's?

I HEARD THAT CHIHARU COLLAPSED DURING PRACTICE?
KEIMI!
YES?
TATSU-KUN!
WHERE'S KUROKI-SAN?
WHERE IS HE?
SUDDENLY
MAYBE IN THE MAKEUP ROOM?
KEIMI!

Unforgi-
vable!
KEIMI!
My sister, who's usually so calm and collected, became so distressed...
And now she's confined to her bed!
She was truly looking forward to that audition..
My sister is the only one who's suffering.
KUROKI-SAN!
He acts as though he's unaffected...
Pant Pant

COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE KNOCKED?
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW— LET'S JUST TALK LATER, OKAY?
LET'S TALK NOW!
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU!
NOW I JUST LOOK...
LOOK DOWN?
YES! I LOOK DOWN ON YOU!

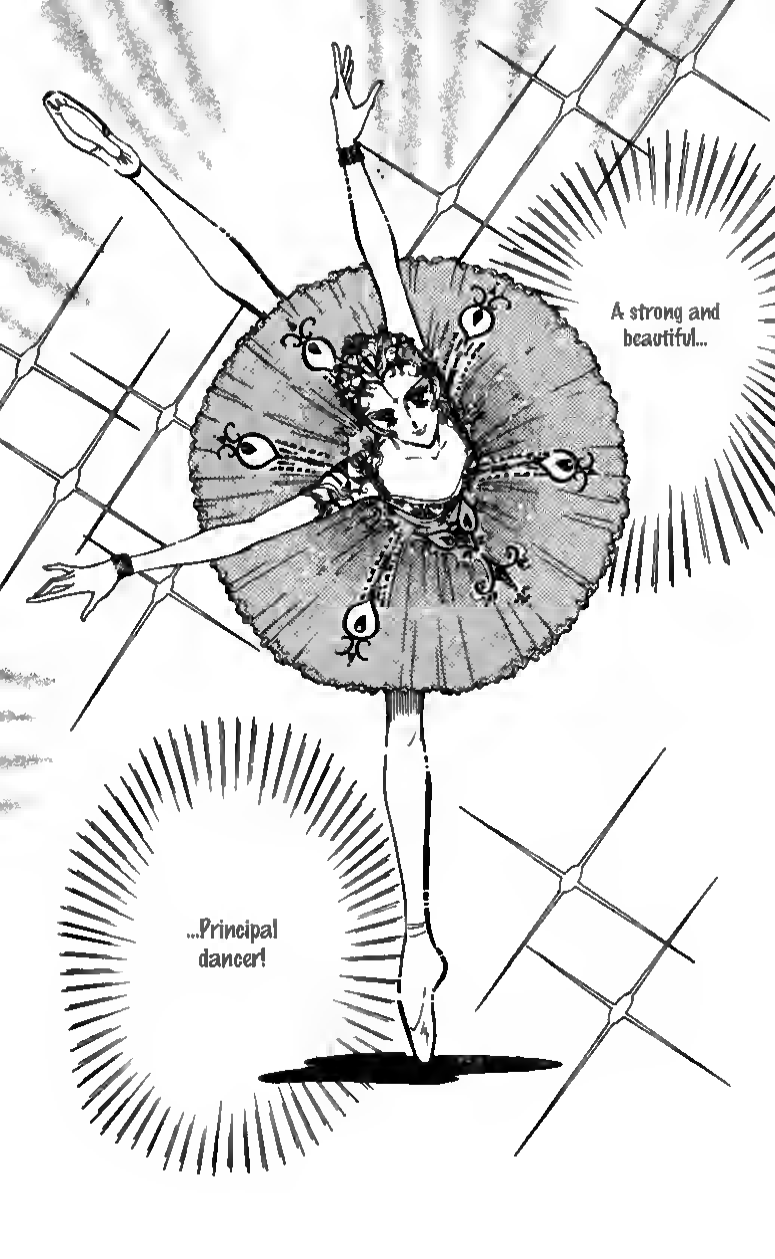
SO YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR TREACHERY, HUH?
.....
ALSO, IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHOUT, YOU'D BEST CLOSE THE DOOR FIRST.
LET'S TALK AGAIN AFTER YOU'VE LET OFF SOME STEAM!
STOP PLAYING INNOCENT!
YOU KNOCKED UP MY SISTER AND YOU STILL...
TREACH-ERY?
ME?
HA HA HA HA
I KNOCKED UP CHI-HARU?
STOP LAUGHING!
HUH?

I'M...
NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE AUDITION ANYMORE!
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD, LOYAL LITTLE SISTER!
UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT ONE OF THEM.
CHIHARU IS VERY BEAUTIFUL. I'M SURE SHE HAS A LOT OF ADMIRERS.
HU HU HU
SLAM
AND YOUR REASON IS ..?
MY REASON?
I HATE HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH A WORLD THAT HAS SOMEONE LIKE YOU IN IT!
THAT'S WHY!

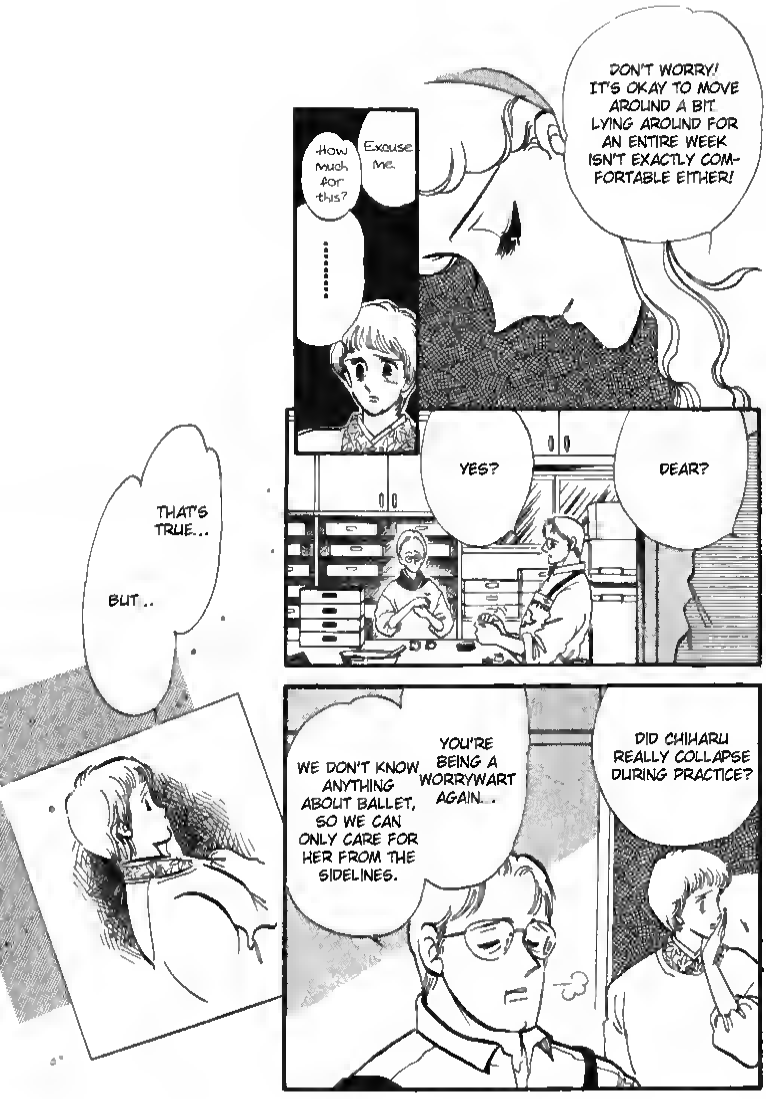
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING AT ALL!
NO!
I'VE SAID MY PIECE, NOW LET ME THROUGH!
!
DARG
SIT DOWN! AND LOOK CLOSELY!
LET ME GO! YOU PLAYBOY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!
THUD
PUSH

THUMP
What's with him?
THAT HURTS! LET GO!
THUMP
His hands are like a vise...
THUMP
THIS SMALL FACE...

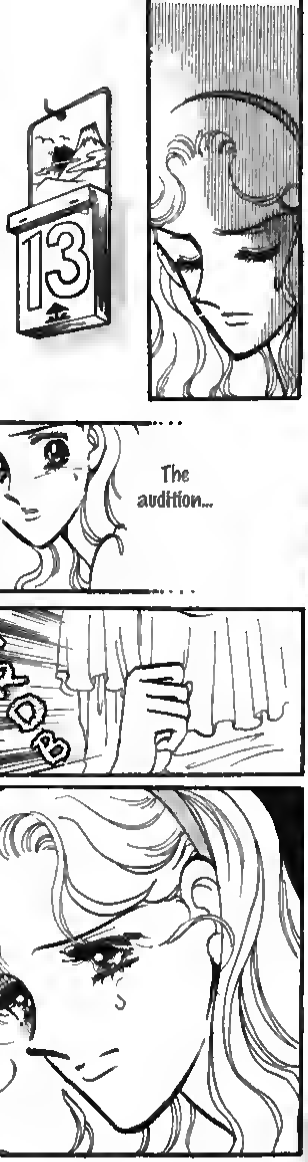
IT'S TOO COMMON! NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT IT!
THE SAME AS ANY OTHER SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S FACE!
ONE DAY, I'LL USE THESE TWO HANDS...
TO TRANSFORM THAT FACE INTO THE FACE OF A STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL PRINCIPAL DANCER!


A strong and beautiful...
...Principal dancer!

MORIKAWA PASTRY SHOP
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MISS.
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT..
AND WHERE'S MINE?
DEAR, PLEASE TAKE CHARGE OF THE STORE.
野口酒店
YES, THE 400 YEN ONE
YOU'D LIKE TO BUY A CAKE?
YOU SHOULD BE LYING DOWN!
LET ME!
CHIHARU!


DON'T WORRY! IT'S OKAY TO MOVE AROUND A BIT. LYING AROUND FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK ISN'T EXACTLY COMFORTABLE EITHER!
Excuse me.
How much for this?
.....
YES?
DEAR?
DID CHIHARU REALLY COLLAPSE DURING PRACTICE?
YOU'RE BEING A WORRYWART AGAIN...
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BALLET, SO WE CAN ONLY CARE FOR HER FROM THE SIDELINES.
THAT'S TRUE...
BUT..

Violet,
Light green...
Peach,
So many colors in one box...
I never noticed before...
And in an unforeseen circumstance...
A life was lost...
I'm sorry, little baby...
My entire life was dedicated to ballet...
I was dancing nonstop, and I never took the time to look at anything else...

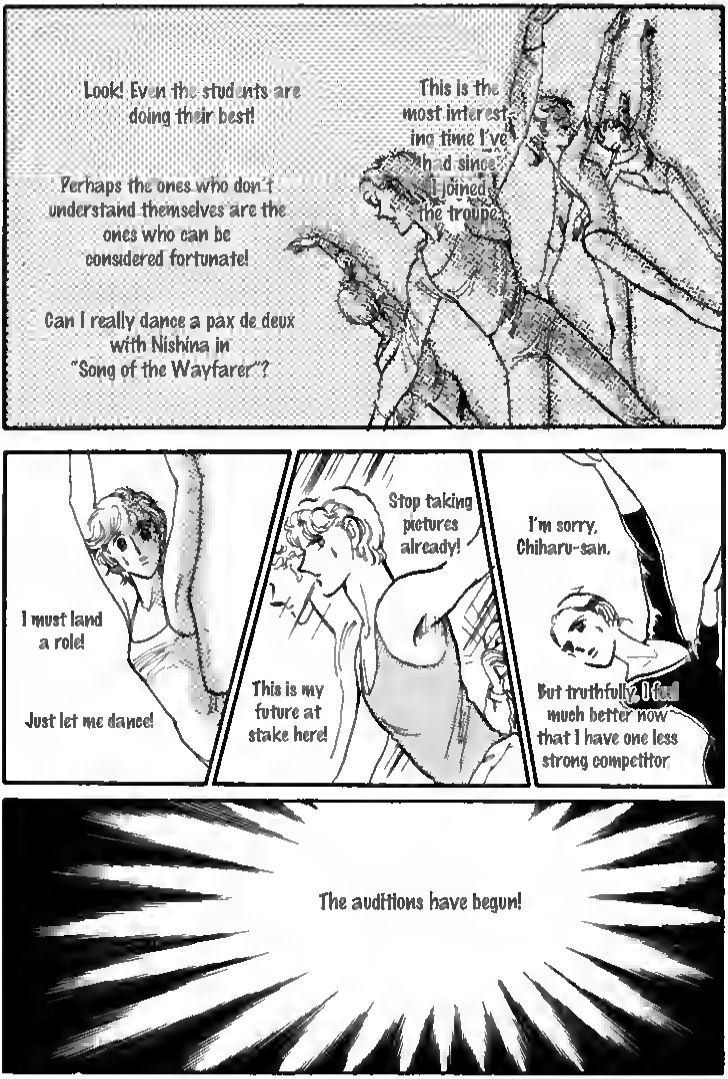

13
I never thought...
That one night would result in my getting pregnant with Eiji-san's child...!!
It's today!
The audition...
THUD

I want to dance so much...
TOKYO MIZUKOSHI BALLET COMPANY'S SCHOOL OF BALLET
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WHAT A TURNOUT! THE WORLD FAMOUS FUMIHIKO KAIDA SURE HAS A LOT OF STAR POWER!

I HEARD THAT THE B SECTION'S "NANAKO" IS AN ORIGINAL NEW WORK?
A LOT OF FOREIGN REPORTERS ARE HERE, SO YOU COULD SAY THAT THE WHOLE WORLD HAS EYES ON THIS AUDITION.
PLEASE TAKE PICTURES.
KAIDA-SAN!
THE PRODUCTION OF "SLEEPING BEAUTY" IN PARIS LAST MONTH WAS A CLASSICAL AVANT GARDE PRODUCTION, WASN'T IT?
ALL THIS TALK ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLASSICAL AND MODERN AVANT GARDE...
TCHAIKOVSKY'S MUSIC WILL ALWAYS BE POPULAR
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE LOOK THIS WAY!
CAN WE ASK ABOUT THE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR TODAY?
THE CRITERIA...
PLEASE ALLOW FUJIMURA-SENSEI OF THE MIZUKOSHI BALLET TROUPE TO EXPLAIN
YES

THE AUDITIONS REQUIRE THAT EACH PARTICIPANT REGISTER THEIR NAME UNDER THEIR DESIRED ROLES.
PART OF THE A AND B SECTIONS WILL BE OVERSEEN BY THE TROUPE'S DANSEUR NOBLE, NISHINA EIJI.
SO THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MATCH THE B SECTION'S ROLES IN "SONG THE WAYFARER" AND "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN."
THE PANEL OF JUDGES WILL CONSIST OF ALL THE TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOL.
AS WELL AS OUR STAGE MAKEUP ARTIST KUROKI-SAN.
KAIDA-SAN WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY, THOUGH.
THEN...
IT'S BEEN SAID THAT THIS IS A RECITAL FOR THE MIZUKOSHI BALLET TROUPE. WHY NOT JUST CALL IT A RECITAL DIRECTED BY KAIDA-SAN?
WELL, YOU COULD LOOK AT IT THAT WAY,
I SUPPOSE.

YEAH, I'M GETTING NERVOUS!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR "SONG OF THE WAY-FARER."
DO YOUR BEST! I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE IT!
KUROKI-SAN!
TATSURU!
HAVE YOU SEEN KEIMI?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HER TOO, BUT NO SIGN OF HER YET.
AND YET, WHEN SHE MET KAIDA-SAN, SHE WAS SO HAPPY. SHE SAID SHE'D DEFINITELY JOIN THE AUDITION!
KUROKI-SAN?
Could it be that she really isn't coming?


Look! Even the students are doing their best!
Perhaps the ones who don't understand themselves are the ones who can be considered fortunate!
Can I really dance a pax de deux with Nishina in "Song of the Wayfarer"?
This is the most interesting time I've had since I joined the troupe.
I must land a role!
Just let me dance!
Stop taking pictures already!
This is my future at stake here!
I'm sorry, Chiharu-san.
But truthfully, I feel much better now that I have one less strong competitor.
The auditions have begun!

SLAM
Everybody must have left in a rush..
Clothes and bags just left lying around..
THE AUDITIONS ARE STARTING
.....
There's still time...
TRY! TRY! TRY!

Sis...
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE GET THAT ROLE!
The truth is that you really want to dance, don't you, Keiwi?!
Your innermost desire is to be selected to join the recital!
THUD

THIRD GROUP, GET READY!
TAP TAP TAP
SECOND GROUP, YOU'RE ON!
Bite
In this world, being too proud and self-reliant isn't allowed.
If you're satisfied with just dancing solo, then you won't grow.
I'm gonna get this role!

Being recognized by Fumihiko Kaida is the first step towards becoming world-class!

YOU'RE HIRED!
BLAH
BLAH
TATSURU, WELL DONE!
ALL WE CAN SAY IS CONGRATULATIONS!
sniff
ONE WORD FROM FUMIHIKO KAIDA IS ENOUGH TO GET YOU TO PERFORM TOGETHER WITH NISHINA IN A DOUBLE BILLING...

KEIMI!
FUJIMURA IS SO HE HAS THE LUCKY! IMAGE, AND THE SENPAI ALL LOVE HIM!
DO YOUR BEST!
DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM.
YEAH!
CLANK
TATSU-KUN...
WERE'N'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE PARTICIP-ATING?
THE AUDI-TIONS FOR "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHIL-DREN" HAVE STARTED ALREADY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

KEIMI! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
TATSU-KUN..
BECA-USE...
I CAN'T JOIN..
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO HIM..
I..
SOB
WHY THINGS TURNED OUT THIS WAY.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND IT MYSELF.

KEIM!..
WHAT DID KUROKI-SAN TELL YOU?
SOB
KUROKI-SAN!..
HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO DANCE MAHLER..
WHO IS HE?
HIM?

TATSU-
KUN?
!

Tatsu-kun...
HOLD
Tatsu-kun!?

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna

Volume 1 - Chapter 5

Translated by Iran
Proofread by Mars
Edited by Nikkou

Barcarolle
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SLAP
Why?
He's heavy...
I can't move...
TATSU-KUN!
DON'T!
KEIKI...

USING FORCE WITH ME...
HOW COULD YOU!
KEIMI!
BOMP
That frightened me!
THE AUDITION VENUE IS OVER THERE!
Nishina Eiji, our danseur noble...

I'M NOT PARTICIPATING ANYMORE..
WAAA
CHIHARU MORIKAWA'S SISTER?
THEIR EYES LOOK THE SAME...
DID YOU MAKE HER CRY, TATSURU?
WELL, DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT, TATSURU?
FUMIHIKO KAIDA ACKNOWLEDGED YOU, SO I'M FINE WITH DANCING TOGETHER WITH YOU.
BUT FOR HIM TO DECIDE THAT I HAVE TO SHARE EVEN MY ADAGIO WITH YOU... I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT.
IT SEEMS KAIDA PLANS TO LET A NEWCOMER LIKE YOURSELF COMPETE AGAINST ME IN THE SAME SETTING.
I DON'T SEE HOW THAT BODY OF YOURS COULD BE DASHING ENOUGH TO CATCH KAIDA'S ATTENTION.
BUT I DO KNOW THAT I WON'T GIVE UP MY PLACE TO AN UNDER-CLASSMAN!

DON'T THINK YOU CAN DANCE WITH JUST YOUR GOOD LOOKS!
NOW HERE'S A PROBLEM. KEIMI MORIKAWA ISN'T HERE, FUJI-MURA-SENSEI
YES, I KNOW...
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
WHAT' LL WE DO?
HOW TO..?
BLAH
WITH FUMIHIKO KAIDA..
BLAH
BUT..

I WILL NOW ANNOUNCE...
THE LIST OF NAMES FOR SECTION B!
THOSE WHO ARE CALLED, PLEASE COME FORWARD.
KYAA
SASAKI MARI,
SHIMIZU YOUKO,
WAAH
TSUCHIYA SANAE,
...
BLAH
BLAH
CRAK
KUROKI-KUN...
Swoosh

IT SEEMS NEITHER SISTER AUDITIONED. WHAT A WASTE.
whoosh
IT'S BEEN A BUSY DAY
DID YOU COME OUT FOR SOME FRESH AIR AS WELL, FUJIMURA-SENSEI?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL RAIN SOON
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE TAMING OF OUR SKITTISH WILD HORSE TO ME?
I WON'T ADMIT DEFEAT SO EASILY!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HER ANYMORE...
I GIVE UP.
That girl has set off some fireworks here, that's for sure.
pop
pip

I can't just let those fireworks die away...
IT'S TIME FOR CLASS AL-READY.
I HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL.
YOU'RE LEAVING? STAY WITH ME A WHILE LONGER!
WE'RE ORDINARY SIXTEEN YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HERE. WE DON'T GO TO A BALLET SCHOOL LIKE YOU DO!
WE DON'T HAVE THE TALENT TO TRAIN IN A BALLET TROUPE WHILE STILL TAKING SECOND YEAR JUNIOR HIGH CLASSES.
WE ENVY YOU, KEIMI!
OH, IT'S RAINING! AND WE ONLY HAVE ONE UMBRELLA!
I'M NOT GOING YET YOU CAN USE MY UMBRELLA
IT'LL PROB-ABLY STOP RAINING SOON ANYWAY.

BYE!
LET'S GO OUT AGAIN NEXT TIME WE'RE ALL FREE!
BYE KEIMI!
TALK TO YOU SOON!
Is the audition...
over already?
Time to go home...
Home to those folks who want me to dance...

After all, I won't be dancing ballet anymore!
Even so, what else can I do?
HONK
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR AGES! GET IN THE CAR!
YOU'RE SOAKING WET!
A DANCER SHOULDN'T LET HERSELF GET SOAKED THIS WAY!
I'M NOT A DANCER!
SLAM

FLAP
RUSTLE
cough
YOU ARE!
DON'T LET GO OF YOUR OWN IDENTITY!

FLASH
SLAM
SIGH
WHERE ARE WE?
WELCOME!
AH, GUESTS!
Wow, she's beautiful!

HAS BUSINESS BEEN GOOD?
FOR YOU TO SUDDENLY BRING A GIRL HERE,
AND SUCH A CUTE ONE AT THAT!
Let's wipe you up.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN THREE MONTHS!
Cafe Bar del'Era?
Isn't that the name of a famous principal dancer from the past?
HER NAME'S KEIKI MORIKAWA.
SHE'S A STUDENT AT THE SCHOOL.
SMILE
What?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
I'M REO'S MOTHER.

I LIKE YOU, KEIMI-CHAN!!
She's a middle-aged lady
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
REALLY! AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE KUROKI-SAN'S GIRLFRIEND...
HERE!
UMM, NO THANK YOU, I'M STILL A MINOR...
DON'T WORRY, YOU HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION HERE
WELL, IT SOUNDS GOOD IN THEORY ...
BUT IT'S JUST A THOUGHT.
KEIMI-CHAN, YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL!
WITH A KID LIKE HER...
HAHA! YOU TOOK IT SERIOUSLY!
Tehee
♪MOT-HER!

Yes?
Hey!
A cheeky mother.
Here's one adversary Kuroki-san can't beat so easily.
Giggle
Nn, delicious ♡
HIC
...
ARE YOU ALSO DANCING UNDER FUMIHIKO KAIDA'S DIRECTION?
THAT'S ALL FOR THE BEST TOO
THOSE WHO'VE DANCED UNDER HIM... I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM ENDED UP GIVING UP DANCE ...
NO... I...
HIC
STILL... YOU'RE A BIT YOUNG TO BE ONE OF FUMIHIKO KAIDA'S DANCERS
I'D ASSUMED THAT ANYONE REO BRINGS HERE WOULD BE.

FOR FUMIHIKO KAIDA, DANCERS ARE JUST INSTRUMENTS TO FULFIL HIS VISION.
HE'S A CRUEL MAN, THAT ONE!

OKAY?
I'LL GO CHANGE THE RECORD,
WERE YOU A DANCER?
THAT BOY...
I HAD HIM WITH FUMIHIKO KAIDA WHEN I WAS TWENTY.
I SUPPOSE YOU ALREADY KNOW?
CLICK
HUH, THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF THING WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT THOUGH!
ANOTHER GLASS?

I don't want to...
Think about anything anymore...
Oboe music...

I was supposed to...
dance to this piece at the audition...
Mahler
IT'S GUSTAV MAHLER'S "SONGS ON THE DEATH OF CHILDREN."
THIS SONG..
MAHLER SAW THE POEMS RUCKERT WROTE ABOUT HIS DECEASED SON, AND WAS PROBABLY MOVED TO COMPLETE THE SONG.
AND LATER ON, MAHLER EXPERIENCED THE PAIN OF LOSING HIS OWN DAUGHTER AS WELL...
Now the sun wants to rise as brightly as if nothing terrible had happened during the night. The misfortune had happened only to me.

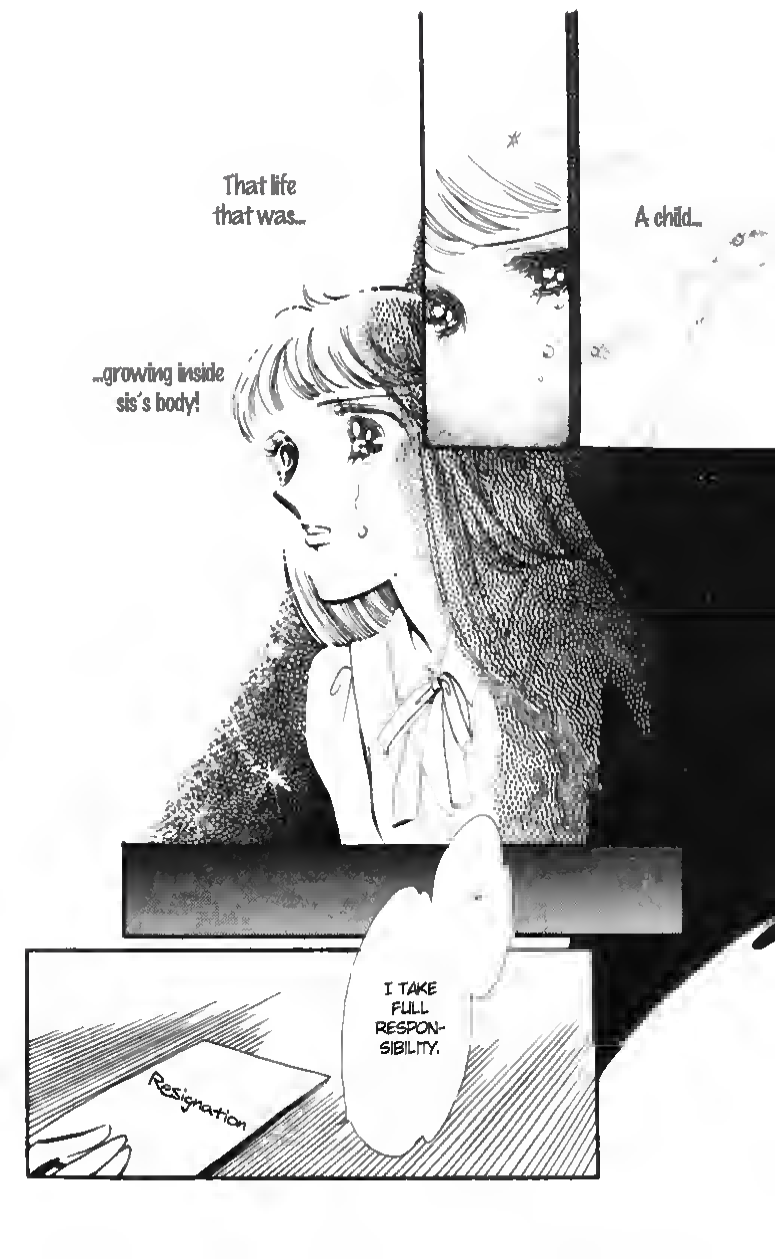
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SONG, ISN'T IT?
KAIDA MUST HAVE TAKEN NEARLY A DECADE TO TRANSFORM THIS SONG INTO A BALLET!
THE FACT THAT HE'S PREMIERING THE BALLET HERE IN JAPAN MUST HAVE IRKED THE PEOPLE AT THE HAMBURG BALLET.
HE MAY BE JAPANESE, BUT HE'S ALSO THE HAMBURG BALLET'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR...

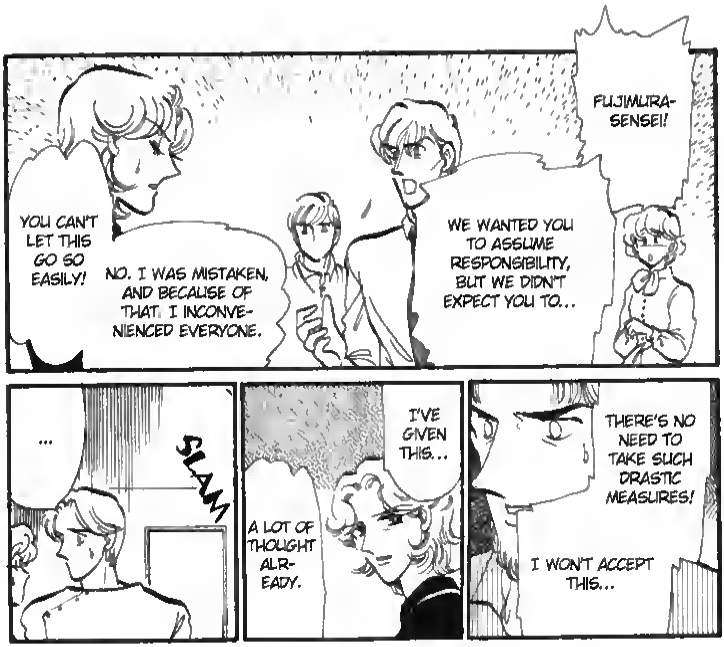
How did he interpret this song...

How did he translate the notes into steps?

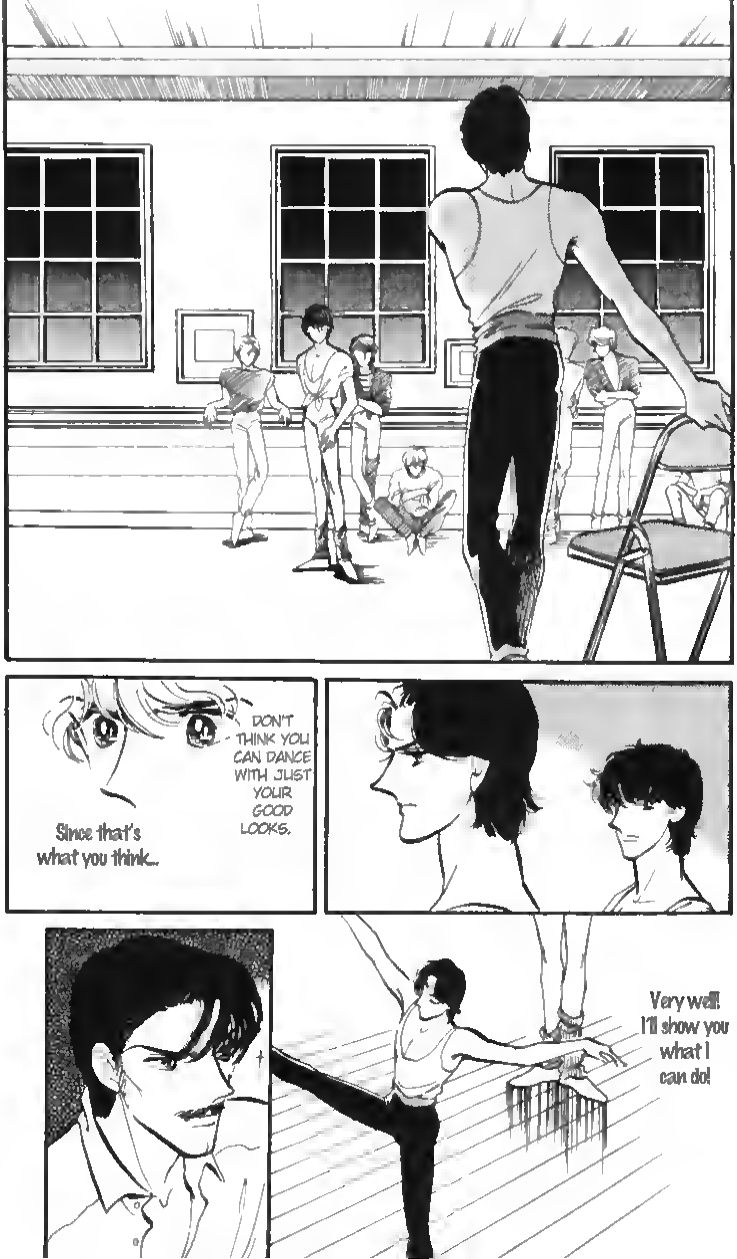
This song...

You must not enfold the night in you.
You must sink it in eternal light.
A little star went out in my tent!


That life that was...
A child...
...growing inside sis's body!
I TAKE FULL RESPON-SIBILITY.
Resignation


FUJIMURA-SENSEI!
WE WANTED YOU TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY, BUT WE DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO...
NO. I WAS MISTAKEN, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I INCONVENIENCED EVERYONE.
YOU CAN'T LET THIS GO SO EASILY!
THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE SUCH DRASTIC MEASURES!
I WON'T ACCEPT THIS...
I'VE GIVEN THIS...
A LOT OF THOUGHT ALREADY.
...
SLAM

WILL BE A DANSE A DEUX BETWEEN EIJI NISHINA AND TATSUKI FUJIMURA.
SONG OF THE WAYFARER...


DON'T THINK YOU CAN DANCE WITH JUST YOUR GOOD LOOKS.
Since that's what you think...
Very well! I'll show you what I can do!

OUCH!
WHO TOLD YOU TO DANCE SO BROADLY? TATSURU FUJIMURA!
FUJIMURA! WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE DANCING? LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!
NO!
HE'S BEEN YELLING AT HIM FOR TWO HOURS ALREADY.
Yes.
YOU MUST LET GO OF EVERYTHING IN YOUR PERSONA OUTSIDE THE DANCE!
YOU MUSTN'T RELAX FOR EVEN ONE MOMENT!
YOU NEED TO MESH WITH THE DANCE!
This is Fumihiko Kaida?

VERY WELL! FUJIMURA, SIT DOWN!
YES!
MUSIC!
QUICKLY!
PANT
PANT
NISHINA!
YOU CAN DANCE THE SOLO PORTION FIRST!
FUJIMURA...
Swoosh
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO DANCE SUCH A TERRIBLE DANSE DE DEUX WITH YOU!

USE YOUR BODY TO EXPRESS EMOTION.
DON'T OVERDO IT!
THAT'S IT!
...
NISHINA'S DANCING IS DIFFERENT...
SO MOVING...
GULP

This is Nishina Eiji's talent...
And here I thought he was just an arrogant principal dancer...
What a joke!
And I wanted to show him what I can do...

PIOP
FLIP
OPEN
...
SIGH
It's done.
Footsteps in the practice room...
TAP TAP TAP
OPEN
Today, my long tenure with the ballet troupe...

Morikawa-san!?
Classes should be over already.
Oh...

Hoshi wo Tsumu Donna

Volume 1 Chapter 6

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The Barcardle Team

FLOWER COMICS

星を摘むドンナ 1

さいとうちほ／原作 佐和みずえ

● CHIHO SAITO ● MIZUE SAWA

少コミ フラワーコミックス